

7th Sept (TH) History 1878

DAILY EXPRESS

TERRE HAUTE, IND.

Tuesday Morning, Dec. 23, 1873.

Mrs. Lincoln denies Herndon's statement that Mr. Lincoln died an unbeliever.

There was a good deal of fermentation among the laboring classes yesterday—a riot in Philadelphia and two mammoth demonstrations, one in Cincinnati and the other in New York. Full particulars will be found in the telegraphic columns.

A Washington special to the Indianapolis Journal, says that considerable attention is being directed to the operation of the sinking fund law of February, 1862. It is believed that \$35,000,000 per year can be saved by its repeal, and the necessity for increased taxation or further borrowing thereby avoided. Senator Boutwell says compliance with this law as it now stands will require an appropriation of \$35,000,000 this year.

THE VIRGINIUS.

Attorney General Williams has decided, very justly, that the Virginus, at the time of her capture, had no right to carry the American flag, and that her register was a fraud, inasmuch as the evidence clearly proves that she was purchased more than three years ago in New York by Queros and other Cubans. This fact was just as well known to the authorities in Washington and to all well-posted persons when the first demand for her surrender was made upon the Spanish government as it is now. It was perfectly well known that, because of our strength, we were making Spain surrender to us a filibustering craft, fraudulently carrying American colors, which vessel Spain had very properly captured on the high seas. The precedent we establish is that when a private ship is captured under American colors that we will make war or have reparation exactly as if she were an honest ship.

But this is not the worst of the situation. Since the decision of Attorney General Williams, Spain has now a claim for damages consequent upon the cruise of the Virginus, similar in principle to that growing out of the depredations of the Alabama, and she will probably have a heavy bill of this nature to present, which, in case of its being rejected by our government, she will propose to have arbitrated by one or more neutral powers.

The Virginus will prove to be one of the biggest elephants that Uncle Sam ever got hold of. She has cost us fifteen millions expended in bluster and bravado, already, and likely we will have to pay Spain as much more before we are done with her.

A STATEMENT FROM COL. DOWLING.

A well informed gentleman tells us that Dowling's hurried visit to Indianapolis this week, was to consult with Keenan, of the Sentinel on the removal of Gen. Harrison's bones to the Tippecanoe battle ground. We remember Col. Tom was in the Harrison campaign of 1840. Even the temperance organization will be mollified by this statement.

The City Fire Department.

Its History from the Days of the Bucket Brigade to the Present.

The Names of the Boys who Run With the "Machine."

A List of Important Fires that Have Been in the City.

Like all young villages, Terre Haute was at first, and for many years, poorly supplied with means of protection against fire. The first resort, hand-buckets, was for a long time the only recourse. Every house was supplied with two rubber buckets, and on the alarm of fire every citizen was expected to pick up his buckets and rush to the fire. And it was astonishing with what celerity, at times, water was brought to bear upon the flames. Often a double line of men would be formed from the river as far back as Third street,—one line rapidly passing up buckets filled with water, and the other line as rapidly passing down empty ones to be filled.

For a long time scarcely any water could be had except at the river. Besides the system of buckets, water was hauled to fires in hogheads on drays. The first drayman who brought his load to a fire received five dollars. Then after a while, two public fire cisterns were built, one in the northeast corner of the public square and the other in the southwest corner. They were built of plank, the cracks cemented, and without a brick in either of them. These, of course, did not last long. There are now large well-built and substantial cisterns all over town.

About the year 1836 an innovation in the shape of a fire engine appeared. It was the "Hoosier," one of the old fashioned hand engines, manned, when at work, by thirty or forty men. "Fire-wardens" had charge of the volunteer departments. In 1838 the following wardens were in office: 1st ward, John Crawford; 2nd, Zenas Smith; 3rd, Thos. Houghton; 4th, Alexander McGregor; 5th, Thomas C. Clayton. The second engine was the "Vigo," a small one run by two men, bought in 1852. The "Mohawk" was purchased soon after. The "Northern Liberty" was bought about the year 1858, the "Vigo No. 2" in 1859, and the "Niagara" in 1860. These were all hand engines, and became insufficient for the wants of the growing city. None of them are now in the city. The "Hoosier" was torn up, the "Vigo" went to Effingham, the "Northern Liberty" to Crawfordville, and the "Niagara" to Paris. There was a small hook and ladder truck, in use for several years, purchased about the year 1840. No one seems to know what ever became of it.

The present engine house No. 1, was built about the year 1849; No. 2 in 1852, and the present hook and ladder house, then the "Niagara," in 1852.

All were volunteer organizations, until about the year 1856, the first regularly organized fire department was formed. The following is the list of Chiefs of the department, as copied from a silver trumpet belonging to the city, in the possession of Mr. Van Brunt: 1856, T. C. Bustin; 1857, R. S. Cox; 1859, J. C. Yates; 1861, John D. Bell; 1863, J. A. Bryan; 1865, B. F. Dengler; 1866, J. A. Bryan (January to May); 1866, John D. Bell; 1871 (April to May), W. L. Wright; 1871 William Van Brunt.

The first steam fire engine was purchased in the year 1867. It was the present engine No. 1, Albert Lange. It cost \$4,500. "Vigo No. 1" was bought in the fall of the same year, and cost \$4,250. Both were manufactured by Wm. Jeffers, of Pawucket, Rhode Island. These engines are first-rate piston machines, can raise steam in three or four minutes, and can throw water nearly, if not quite 200 feet high. They have several times forced water to fires through 2,000 feet of hose.

The present hook and ladder wagon was bought in 1869. It cost about \$1,500. It is provided with six ladders of different sizes, 12 rubber buckets, 2 hooks, with ropes, 4 axes, a crowbar, pikes, etc. It was formerly drawn by but one horse, but another horse was added about a month ago. There are eight horses belonging to the department altogether. There are about 3,000 feet of hose, 2,000 of which is new and first-class. The city council has ordered 1,800 feet additional, and two more reels. There is an alarm bell on each of the three houses, besides one at the furniture factory on south Second street. An addition to the Ninth street house has just been completed, for the reception of a horse and reel.

A great addition to the facilities of the fire department is the fire alarm telegraph, which was established more than a year ago, at an original cost of \$3,500. Four new boxes are now being put up. Each box costs \$250 each, contains very intricate works, and is set in operation by simply pulling down a hook on the inside. There will be, when the present ordered improvements are completed, over nine miles of wire, ten alarm boxes, an alarm in the house of the chief, a small striking apparatus in each engine

house, and communication with the water works. A striking apparatus was attached to the bell of the Congregational church, as an experiment, but it seems to be of little use, and will probably be taken away. The signal keys in the engine houses are not reliable, as have been demonstrated several times. They do not always strike just the right signals, though operated in the proper manner. But the boxes work in a perfectly satisfactory manner, and show instantly in what neighborhood a fire is.

But the greatest protection against fires Terre Haute has yet had is the system of water works, established during the present year. A description is needless, as everyone is well acquainted with the works. They were built by Clapp & Jones, of Hudson, New York. The city paid \$50,000 toward their construction. They have already demonstrated their complete success, at least for the present. Some persons doubt their perfection, fearing that the pipes may burst in the future, or that when the city increases, and more water is used, and the pipes are extended, that the pipes will prove inadequate. But the proprietors have no doubt of the complete success of the system.

The following is the list of the members of the Terre Haute Fire Department:

NO. 1.

Engineer, Stephen Mahoney; fireman Wm. Van Brunt, jr.; engine driver, Daniel Hojan; reel driver, Arthur McMahan; regular hosemen, John Kennedy and Joseph Schell; extra hosemen, Patrick King and Walter Green.

NO. 2.

Engineer, Isaac McManime; fireman, Robert Woodall; engine driver, Elias George; hose driver, Chas Smith; regular hosemen, Dennis Sullivan and James Tully; extra hosemen, John Shumire and W. B. George.

HOOK AND LADDER WAGON.

Driver, Henry Stakeman; steersman, Herman Ramme; extra men, Charles Lustig, George Yost, and Phillip Shrader.

The following are the salaries which members receive: Engineers, per month, \$85; firemen, \$50; engine drivers, \$50; reel drivers, \$50; regular hosemen, \$10; ladder wagon driver, \$50; steersman, \$30. The regular hosemen receive \$2.50 for a day fire, \$3 for a night fire, and half price for a false alarm.

The following are among the important fires which have occurred in the city since it has been a city:

In 1841, the Stewart House.
In 1841, a week afterward, almost all the north side of the public square.

In 1844, almost all the west side of the public square.

In 1843 or 1844, Miller's pork house, on Chestnut and Water streets. A great quantity of meat was burned. The heat was awful. The whole country around was supplied with heat-cured ham at a cent per pound.

In 1849 all the buildings on the north side of Main street, between Third street and the alley, between Third and Fourth.

In 1852, a great fire on the southeast corner of Main and Fourth streets, extending east to the alley.

In 1854, several stables on Cherry street between Third and Fourth. Eighteen horses were burned.

In 1865, Kennedy's woolen mill, on the site of the present building.

In 1865, the Richmond R. R. shops.
In 1869, Blaize's mill, on Chestnut and Water streets.

In 1869, the "spinning-wheel corner," Fourth and Main streets, where the Opera House now is.

In 1871, grain mill, corner Eagle and First streets.

In 1872, the Danville R. R. shops, Elm and Twelfth streets.

In 1873, the Vigo Iron and Nail works, Thirteenth and Park streets, the worst of all. Damage \$200,000.

In 1873, Haney's ware house, Eagle and First streets.

OLD TERRE HAUTE FIRE DEPARTMENT

History And Reminiscences of Conditions of Conditions in The Early Days.

Fire Dept

There are many men in the city of Terre Haute who can remember when there were no fire engines in the city at all. And these men can also remember the time that the city council ordered some of the, then, splendid looking hand engines that were used all over the country.

Companies had to be formed to take charge of these engines and drag them through the streets of the city to a fire. Men had to volunteer for the laborious work, as there was no fund laid aside to pay them for their services. Those men who then volunteered in a great work, for the defense of the property of the city, are many of them still alive. They have watched the progress of the fire department, its development through the intervening years, no doubt with a latent feeling of pride in their hearts that all this was the fruit of the first efforts made by them. And now in the later years of the lives of these men they have again organized as they were organized in the old days. They have formed a society which will not let the early time of the volunteer fireman be forgotten.

Whenever there is a step taken on the road of progress there is always some one to stand beyond the glare of the present and nod his head and say, "I helped to begin that. I was one of the fellows who started the ball rolling. And now you see what it has come to. I guess it was a pretty good thing."

This Old Volunteer Firemen's society has a history, and it is the intention of this article to give readers an insight into it. The modern society wants every man who had anything to do with the work of the old companies to come out and say so and put his name down on the rolls as a member of the society of today. The men who are now members are old and white haired, many of them. They are the men who have been this city's foremost citizens for a quarter of a century and more. Some of them fought in our civil war. What they did dur-

ing their lives, and what many of them are still doing, is well known. If all the old members of the several companies would join the new society there would be 800 names on the books. Mr. Charles T. Nehf is the recruiting officer, and he can be found at 524 Wabash Avenue.

In the history of Vigo county, published by H. C. Bradshy in 1891, occur the following interesting paragraphs: The people of Terre Haute have al-

after considerable correspondence between the council committee and Eastern Engine Builders the Vigo No. 2 was ordered from the Hunneman manufacturing Co., of Boston Mass. Oct 23 1854 and was shipped from Boston Jan 2nd 1855. The cost of the Vigo was \$701 and with other fire supplies the bill amounted to \$1,100. The engine on its arrival was kept in the Fire Engine House on south Fourth street. This house stood on part of the site of the present city building, it was torn down in 1874-5.

The engine remained in Terre Haute until 1867 when it was sold to the town of Jasper, Ind., forming part of their department until Oct. 1898. It was then purchased from that town by the D. W. Watson's sons for the sum of \$100.00 and freight charges amounting to \$22, and then brought back here for an attraction during the street fair.

This engine created considerable excitement among the old volunteer firemen, a register book being placed in D. W. Watson Sons store, and over 75 of the old fire fighters placed their names therein. One night during the fair these men had a street parade with the engine and placed her at the fountain, corner Second and Wabash Ave, and gave her a trial for a few moments, as that was all that was required to satisfy the old veterans most of them being from 58 to 70 years old.

March 16 1839 a call by Ex-chief J. A. Bryan for an old firemen meeting at the store of S. Swope and Co. was made. Quite a number of old firemen responded, the meeting resulted in appointing a committee to collect funds for the purchase of the Old Vigo. The men constituted the committee: J. D. Bell, Joseph McChesny, Jacob Kern, Joseph Reagen, A. M. Buckingham, Joseph Hawley, Otto Wittenberg, Fred Myer, Chas. T. Nehf and Lawrence Burgett.

These men succeeded in raising enough money to purchase the Vigo which is now the property of the Old Volunteer Firemen's association of Terre Haute.

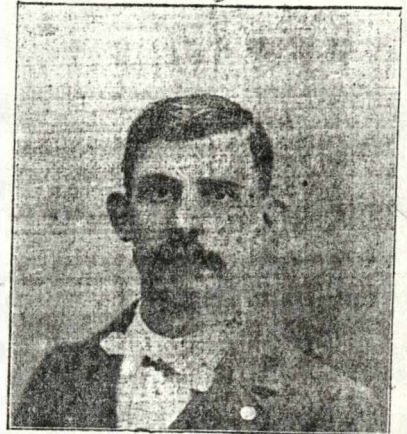
By arrangements made between secretary Chas. T. Nehf and W. P. Arp Supt. of motive power of the Penn. system the Vigo was taken out to the shops and entirely overhauled and repainted free of any cost to the Volunteer Association, and was made ready for the Sept parade of the G. A. R. encampment. It was pulled through the streets of Terre Haute by the following volunteers, as they appear below with the engine. After

chase of Vigo No. 2 and Mohawk it was taken to the Northern Liberty House on North Lafayette and Third street, and called the Northern Liberty.

This engine was sold by Chief J. D. Bell to Hank Beach of Litchfield, Ills. Her present whereabouts are unknown, but the old company is hunting for her.

Second Engine—Vigo No. 2, the present Engine now in the city, was bought in 1855, sold to Jasper in 1862, and back to Terre Haute in 1898.

Third Engine—The Mohawk, was bought June 4 1857 by a committee represented Terre Haute, of R. S. Cox, J. A. Bryan and C. M. Crook, who went to Cincinnati and made the purchase. The Mohawk had been in use for several years and was a double decker. She was stationed on south Fourth street with the Vigo No. 2. She was bought in company with the Hoosier, by Litchfield, Ill. She is also being traced.



CHARLES T. NEHF.

Fourth Engine, the Northern Liberty, was ordered January 28 1858 of Button & Blake, Cincinnati, Ohio, and was received August 3rd 1858, costing \$1,337. She was the first of the Piano Box engines, with working brakes on the sides and the most powerful water thrower of all the hand engines used in Terre Haute. She was stationed at Lafayette and 3rd street and remained in the city until March 6th 1872, being the last hand engine to leave the city. She was sold to Crawfordsville, Ind., and remained there three years, when she was sold to some town in Illinois. This engine is also being looked for.

Fifth and Sixth Engines, On December 6th 1869 a resolution was passed by the council ordering two engines. They were to be similar to the Northern Liberty, to cost, each, \$1,250. Both engines were received at the same time, between May 15th and September 15th 1860, and were called Niagara No. 1 and Vigo No. 2.

Niagara was stationed in the house now the site of the present Fire Dept. Headquarters, and was sold to Crawfordsville April 14th 1869 by chief J. D. Bell for \$600. The Niagara is still in Crawfordsville but has not been in use for eight years.

Vigo No. 2 was sold to Effingham by J. D. Bell, chief, on Sept 21st 1869, and is still in possession of that town.

The present Old Volunteer Firemen's Association was organized on March 23 1899. Interest in the matter had

by-laws in full:

Article 1. This association shall be composed of such persons as have held active membership and persons who assisted at the time of runs and at the engines at fires in the Old Volunteer Fire Department and the younger men who were not of sufficient age to be active members but acted as runners and torch-bearers and this organization shall be known as the Old Volunteer Firemen's Association of Terre Haute, Ind.

Art. 2 By their acts all persons in subscribing to the fund for the purchase of the old fire engine Vigo No. 2 shall be and all others wishing to become Honorary members of this Association can do so by the payment of one dollar—Volunteer Firemen of other towns and cities are eligible to membership by resolution by paying the regular dues.

Art. 3. The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, a First and Second Vice President, a Secretary and treasurer, who shall be elected annually at the regular meeting the last Thursday in March.

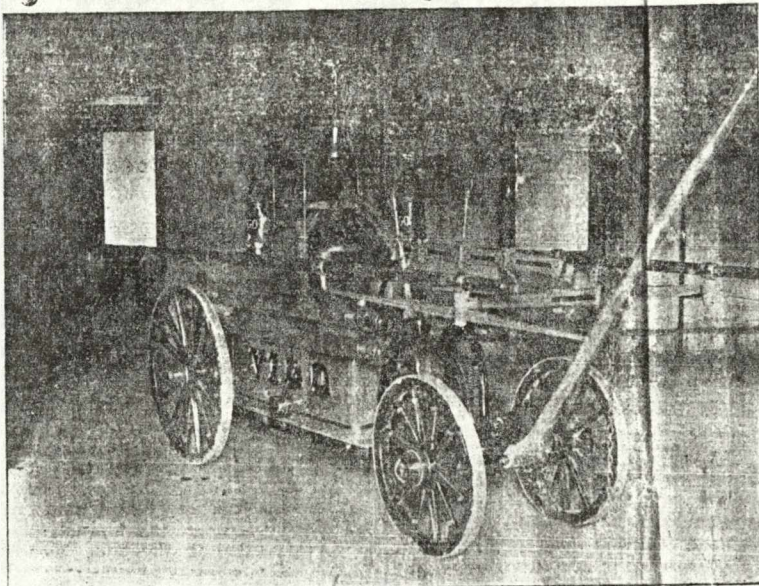
Art. 4 The President shall preside at all meetings at which he may be present, and have power to call the Association at such times as he may deem proper.

Art. 5. In the absence of the President, the duties of that office shall devolve on either of the Vice Presidents.

Art. 6. The Secretary shall keep correct minutes of the transactions of the Association, and shall do and perform such other duties pertaining to his office.

Art. 7. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys paid into the Association and pay all bills ordered by the Association, and make report of same at the regular meeting in February, or when called upon by the Association.

Art. 8. The annual reunion of the



OLD "VIGO" FIRE ENGINE— Photographed for the Gazette

ready become acquainted with the old Vigo hand engine now in the possession of the Society. It was dragged along in the parade of the fire department during the street fair last autumn, and garbed in its new clothes, was a part of the big encampment parade, also, here is its history:

On Feb. 7th 1853 a resolution was offered in the common council of the Town of Terre Haute by Mr. Harrison for the purchase of fire engines, and

the parade the engine was placed in the basement of the Court House where it will remain as the relic of the former fire days.

First Engine—Old Hoosier bought in 1838 by J. D. Early, representing the council, from Merrick & Agnew of Philadelphia for \$511.11. It was used a number of years and then remodeled at the Wallace for First and Walnut streets and was changed to Deluge. After the pur-

Art. 8. The annual reunion of the Association shall be held on the last Thursday in March.

Art. 9. No person shall be considered a member of this Association until he shall have signed the Constitution and have written opposite his signature the name of the Company of which he was a member.

Art. 10. This Association shall not be dissolved so long as five members shall desire its continuance; and this article shall never be erased or amended.

Art. 11. In order to amend any article of this Constitution, except Article 9, it shall require the affirmative votes of two-thirds of the members present.

Art. 12. All applicants for membership in this Association shall be recommended by one or more members of the Association, who shall vouch that the applicant was an active member of the Old Volunteer Fire Department.

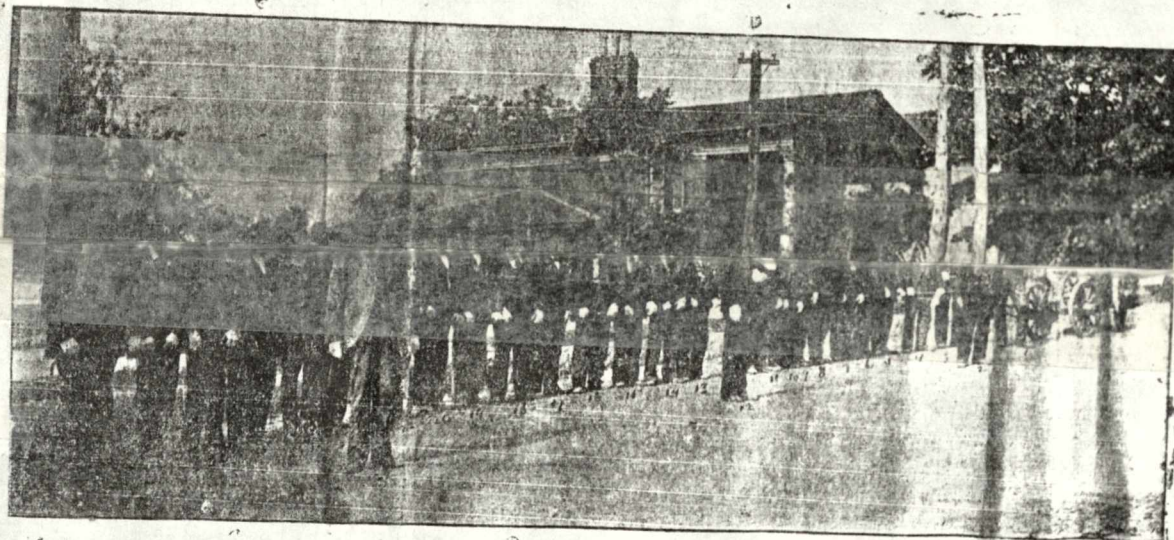
Art. 13. All elections shall be by ballot, and a majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect any officer of this Association. Elections to be held at the annual meeting the last Thursday in March, or according to article second.

BY-LAWS.

Section 1. Meetings of this Association shall be held on the last Thursday in March, June, September and December of each year.

Sec. 2. At the regular meeting in March the President shall appoint a

(Continued on Tenth Page.)



OLD "VIGO" FIRE ENGINE AND MANY OF THE OLD-TIME TERRE HAUTE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN—
Photographed for the Gazette by Bundy.

Members old volunteer fire department, in G. A. R. parade:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) W. K. Burnett. | (10) Frank Roseman. | (19) Henry McLean. |
| (2) Jacob Kern. | (11) J. J. Dailey. | (20) Marton Graff. |
| (3) Joseph McChesney. | (12) John A. Bryan. | (21) Millard Ward. |
| (4) Albert L. Brasher. | (13) E. B. Allen. | (22) John D. Bell. |
| (5) F. H. Spicer. | (14) Jacob Bennett. | (23) Andrew Nehf. |
| (6) C. T. Forristall. | (15) Jacob Sachs. | (24) Peter Grubb. |
| (7) George A. Bettcher. | (16) George Yost. | (25) William Schmitt. |
| (8) Marion McQuilken. | (17) George Schmitt. | (26) Walter Bell. |
| (9) Christopher Demorest. | (18) Otto Wittenberg. | (27) Frederick Robitzer. |
| | | (28) Thomas Vance. |

FIREMEN'S PICNIC

Successful Affair Occurred This Afternoon at Collett Park.

The Old Volunteer Firemen are holding their much postponed picnic this afternoon at Collett Park and a good crowd is in attendance. The program arranged for the afternoon has been carried out without interruption and it is believed that the affair will not again be hindered by the rain. At 2 o'clock the firemen held a reception and at three o'clock Col. McLean delivered his address of welcome. At four o'clock the water throwing exhibition occurred and supper was served at six o'clock by the firemen's wives. Tonight there will be a concert at the park given by the Naylor and the V-P band. The results of the water throwing contest could not be learned on account of the lateness of the hour.

HISTORICAL.

The Early Days of Fire Fighting Here.

The following history of the department for 1838 to 1870 a period of nearly fifty years will be read with interest.

June 8, 1838: The first engine house in Terre Haute was ordered built by the common council, and I. W. Edwards, T. A. Madison and Curtis Gilbert were appointed by the council as a committee to obtain a suitable situation.

Mr. J. D. Early, representing the council, effected the purchase of an engine from Merrick & Agnew of Philadelphia, at a cost of \$5,111 upon which a cash payment of \$888.32 was made.

July 14, 1839: Messrs. Curtis Gilbert, T. A. Madison and — Wallace were appointed a committee to draft a new ordinance.

October 3, 1838: The following gentlemen were appointed fire wardens, (the first wardens were selected). First ward, John Crawford; Second ward, Zenas Smith, Third ward, John S. Burget; Fifth ward, Thomas Clayton. These gentlemen were appointed to hold office five years.

May 1, 1839: Thomas Houghton was appointed to take care of the engine and engine house.

May 17, 1839, record page 68 proceedings of council. "Ordered that the following premiums be awarded by the common council: For the first hoghead of water delivered at a fire, \$3; for the second, \$2; for the third, \$1; and that the sum of twenty-five cents be allowed by the common council for each and every hoghead of water so delivered until the fire be extinguished.

January 3, 1840: An appropriation of \$100 made for the purpose of constructing cisterns in each ward.

A hook and ladder apparatus to be purchased.

January 8, 1840: Ordered that Samuel Early be allowed \$6 for water hauled at the late fire; also \$5 to William B. Taylor, same account.

February 12, 1840: The fire guards appointed in pursuance of the order, regulating the same, reported as having organized themselves into a company, with Demas Deming, captain; James Wasson, first assistant; Thomas H. Blake, second assistant; Joseph Cooper, third assistant; Chauncey Rose, fourth assistant.

FIRST HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY.

The hook and ladder apparatus previously ordered having been procured a company was organized as follows:

Foreman, T. A. Madison, laddermen; John Crawford and A. L. Chamberlain; hosemen, F. McGrew and James Hook, hookmen, John Warner and P. H. Hardy; ropemen, Smith and R. Miner, pikemen, John O'Brien and Mahlon Newman; Stewart, William Ramage.

FIRST ENGINE COMPANY.

Captain, Samuel Crawford; first Lieutenant, Jonas Seely; second Lieutenant, Rufus St. John; fourth Lieut. S. Musselman, engineer, Stephen Stratton; secretary, R. Tillotson; treasurer, H. Fairbanks. Among the rolls of this company appear the names of such men as Messrs. Jacob D. Early, John Dowling, Wait Williams, George C. Warren, Joseph Graft, Z. C. Hovey, Thomas Parsons, J. O. Jones, Richard Blake, H. Fairbanks, D. S. Dandelson, Alexander McGregor, L. G. Warren, James Farrington, Tom Dowling, Rufus St. John, H. Westfall, Curtis Gilbert, L. Surrill and Robert Wharry.

May 10, 1854: Mr. S. E. Gibbs elected chief (the first after the incorporation of the city.)

August 14, 1856: Mr. T. C. Buntin elected chief.

May 15, 1857: Mr. Robert S. Cox was elected chief.

Mr. Cox's administration of the affairs of the department was a vigorous and valuable one, and produced much of good in the way of developing the system.

June 18 1859: Joseph C. Yates was elected chief.

The next chief was John D. Bell. The exact date of his election the Gazette has not learned. He served many years and with great credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the public. It was he who sold the old Vigo which was bought in 1847 to the town of Jasper where it has been for the past forty years doing good service until supplanted recently by water works system introduced in the town.

Bell also sold the old Mohawk to the town of Elmhurst. Ex-chief Bell relates many interesting stories of the early days. As there were no telegraph, telephone or fire alarm wires in those days the alarms were sent in by each man passing

Fire Dept (T.H.)

established was adopted

by

At 1859: Hand engine, No. 1 sold to the Crawfordsville authorities for \$600 Shipped "C. O. D."

April 20, 1859: Alarm bell purchased at a cost of \$300 and placed on the furniture factory.

May 11, 1869: John D. Bell re-elected chief of the department.

May 13, 1869: Expenses of the department for the fiscal year ending May 18, 1869, \$13,289.27. The cost of the hook and ladder wagon was \$750.

May 17, 1870 John D. Bell was again elected chief.

July 12, 1870, Mahoney and McManlnee were appointed engineers.

July 12, 1870: First steps taken toward establishing a system of water works.

April 18, 1871: John D. Bell resigned his position.

September 21, 1869: Mohawk hand engine sold to Elmhurst for \$1,380, of which \$500 was paid cash.

May 12, 1871: William Van Brunt elected chief.

December 10, 1870: The volunteer hook and ladder company was disbanded and the chief ordered to employ five men at the same salary as hosemen for a period of one year.

Community Affairs File

HORACE G. BURT

HAS AN EXPERIENCE

EX-TERRE HAUTEANS INTERVIEW WITH "SQUATTER"

July 1901

PAID FOR LAND IN BLOOD

President of the Union Pacific Has an Unusual Experience With Western Character.

Horace G. Burt, formerly a Terre Haute boy, one of the first graduates of the Terre Haute High school, who married Miss Teel a Terre Haute girl, now president of the Union Pacific, had a peculiar experience last week. As a result of Mr. Burt's animated interview with a relic of border warfare, a little grizzled old man "Bill" Johnson, the survivor of a hundred Indian battles and a man who has fought western battles through two generations, received a quarter section of the company's best land in Wyoming free of charge.

Old Bill claimed the land by right of squatter sovereignty. The Law department failed to recognize his right and the old Indian fighter marched boldly into the presence of the president of the great corporation that threatened to oust him from the land he had paid for with his blood. Old Bill couldn't fight the Union Pacific Railroad company, but when he had received repeated notices to pay for his land or move, he came down to Omaha. He walked into Mr. Burt's office with the air of a lord. The leather couches and Moquette carpet of the president's office neither inspired awe or fear. Bent with age and scarred with knife and bullet from a hundred desperate encounters, Johnson faced President Burt. The great livid scar reaching half way around his brow, the little old man pointed as one of the mementoes of his effort to keep his home from the ravages of the Indians.

Bill explained these things to Mr. Burt. He showed him a certificate from the Clerk of Corbin County that he had settled on the disputed land in 1852, and there on the banks of Green river he had fought the wild Indians and the wildest outlaws of his own race. He had never acquired sufficient money to pay even the modest sum demanded by the railroad company. Still, the old pioneer thought he conferred more than the price of the land to the company by thinning out the bad Indians and the train robbers in that locality.

"How many of these characters have you killed, Mr. Johnson?" inquired President Burt with a serious expression on his face.

"Nine white men and thirty-one Indians, as near as I can count," promptly responded the tough old Westerner.

Noting the expressions of surprise on Mr. Burt's face the old trapper observed: "I hain't got no evidence of the white men I have fought with, but I can show you 15 Injun scalps on my place."

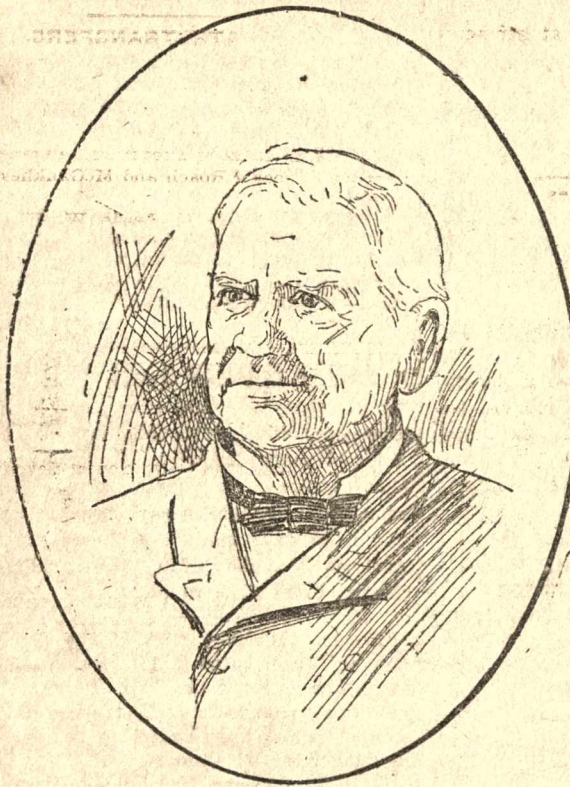
This seemed to be convincing proof of the old fighter's claim and Mr. Burt promptly wrote a note to the Land Department to make the old man a deed to his property and permit him to sign a voucher for value received. The old fellow thanked Mr. Burt profusely and hobbled away with his deed.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

TERRE HAUTE'S PIONEER FIRE CHIEFS.

INDIANA ROOM



T. C. BUNTIN, 1856-1857.



ROBERT S. COX, 1857-1859.



JOSEPH YATES, 1859-1861.

These three men were the first to serve as chiefs of the volunteer fire department of Terre Haute. The heavy silver trumpet held by Mr. Yates was purchased in 1859 to be presented to the volunteer fire department, whose apparatus was able to throw the strongest stream of water. Through some irregularity in the contest, the prize was never awarded and it remains in the possession of Terre Haute's veteran firemen.

RE VOLUNTEER MEN

MEN'S REUNION RECALLS
SOME ANCIENT HISTORY.

RIVALRY IN THE BRIGADES

able Citizens Now Were Valiant
Laddies Then—List of
the Chiefs.

re-union of the old volunteer fire-
last Thursday, recalls the old days
it was necessary for every man to
his work and defend his property,
se of fire. It was the first time in
four years that the old fire veterans
gathered as a body to renew old

friendships and recall the time when each
stood ready at any time to drop his work
and go to the rescue of some one's else
property.

In 1838 the first engine was ordered.
This was called the Hoosier and was in
use for many years. In 1854 the old Vigo
No. 2 was added to the force and Terre
Haute began to boast of her department.
The Hoosier was renamed the Deluge and
in 1855 another engine was purchased
and named the Mohawk.

Between the years of 1855 and 1858 three
large piano box engines were bought and
named the Niagara No. 1, Vigo No. 2, and
the Northern Liberty No. 3. The old De-
luge was renamed for the third time and
called the Northern Liberty. This engine
was stationed at the engine house on
Third and Lafayette streets, and was
used in many of the fires of the old times.

Some time in the early sixties it and the
Mohawk were sold to Litchfield, Ill., and
were used there for some years. Later
they were taken to pieces and one big
engine was built from the two, this was
used about the foundry at Litchfield
and is still used for the quenching of
blazes at the plant.

Northern Liberty No. 3 was sold to
Crawfordsville and was resold by them
to North Harvey, Ill., and is still in
use at that Chicago suburb. Vigo No.
2 is now in Effingham, and the old
Niagara was sold to Crawfordsville and
remained there until 1900 when it was
sold to Lagoda, Ind.

Some of the larger fires at which these
old engines took an active part occurred
between the years of 1857 and 1866. The
most notable of these were the burning
of the Gilbert residence on Fourteenth and

Wabash avenue, the fire in the dry
of the Ashman Lumber yards when a
amount of half seasoned lumber was
stroyed, and the burning of the
ings on the southeast corner of F
and Wabash avenue when an entire
block was destroyed. One of the
runs, of which the old boys still
with pride was that made to the
of Chestnut street when the soap fi
burned.

One of the great attractions at a
bration was a water throwing c
between two or more of the engine
panies. There was a keen rivalry be
the men and in some instances bo
the men led to more or less vicious
to settle the supremacy of two di
companies.

The old fire chiefs and the leng
time each held office is given below

e House. All the vis-
has the time of their
sought to have to leave
Capital City.

ise of the day, however,
L. H. Holderman, pres-
club, had planned
and served as the
visit. The mem-
out of the ho-
car was wait-
everybody got on in
to see the city
conductors sang
and everybody took
for a strenu-
through the

less than half a
everybody yelled, "All
natured ad men
The ride, however,
the money, for Mr.
the merry bunch
where they ended
the day with a "feed."
the banquet, three
for both clubs were
men and the "Pivot
ended an invitation to
Indianapolis.

ary at the Terre
night, Mayor Lyons
in which he wel-
to the city. He was
President Holderman,
"Our Klub." These were
speakers on the pro-
being from Indian-
W. Marsh talked on
ets," and Charles N.
his subject, "Pencil,
Push." Mr. Wilson said
nothing new in adver-
by means of the pen-
and some push the
business and papers could
then put together and
be heard to say, "Why.

Seeds, who conducts a
advertising agency at In-
oke on "Brass Tacks,"
allaley, "The Advertising
S. Wetzel, "A Few
and Ernest C. Ropkey,
greens," "The Time, the
Dope," was "discussed"
Ryan, advertising man-
Ayres & Co., and H. R.
on "This Was Sprung on
ing a short spiel on "Or-
vertising," by John F.
for-all was indulged in
of the clubs from both
laked to speak. Donn M.
vertising manager of the
Store, did some clever
and tricks with cards.

ADVERTISERS' BUSY WEEK.

ference at Baltimore
Large Amount of Work.
RE, Md., May 12.—With
ct of a busy week before
odist general conference
tinued its session. Reports
from the committees
been deluged with petitions
als, many of which were
se bodies without having
conference.

AM CARS AT TOKIO.

ay 12.—The American com-
the New York-Paris automo-



REFERENCE

DO NOT CIRCULATE

FIRE DEPT. (T.H.)

FIRE HORSE DROPS DEAD

5-10-1908 TRIB

Fritz, of No. 3, Sick and Weak,
Rushes from His Stall to Engine
Tongue, and Dies.

Fritz, a member of the horse family
at Station 2, Thirteenth and Chase
streets, dropped dead this morning.

The horse had been in the care of
the firemen of the house and doctors
for some weeks and had been kept in
his stall. The door was opened this
morning and the faithful animal think-
ing an alarm had been turned in, flew
to his place in front of the engine
where he dropped. His condition was
such that the strain effected his heart,
causing instant death.

Since Friday the men have been do-
ing all in their power for the horse
and there is much regret over his un-
timely ending. If Fritz had lived until
June 10, he would have been in the
service here fourteen years. During
that time he had not missed a run only
when the engine was out of service.
Mike Shay was the driver and the loss
to him is especially keen. He was
very fond of Fritz and Fritz was very
fond of him.

REP. HEFLIN INDICTED.

Charge Placed Against Him of As-
sault With a Deadly Weapon.

WASHINGTON, May 12.—The fed-
eral grand jury Monday returned an in-
dictment charging Rep. J. Thomas
Heflin of Alabama with assault with
a dangerous weapon. The indictment
contains three counts, two of which re-
late to the assault of Lewis Lundy, a
negro, with whom Mr. Heflin had a
dispute on a street car in this city on
March 27 last. The third count charges
an assault on Thomas McCreery, of
New York, a horseman who was stand-
ing on the sidewalk and was struck
by a bullet from Mr. Heflin's pistol.

MRS. GUNNESS SEEN BY CONDUCTOR, SO HE SAYS

Pittsburg Police Busy Searching for
Woman on Report of Railway
Man.

PITTSBURG, Pa., May 12.—Pitts-
burg police and detectives are looking
for Mrs. Gunness. A railroad con-
ductor is their authority for believing
that the woman is here. C. D. Burling-
ham, running on the Pennsylvania
system, is the conductor and he says
he brought the woman here on his
train at 6:40 o'clock Sunday morn-
ing. The suspected woman boarded
Burlingham's train at Alliance, O., and
he telegraphed Superintendent Mc-
Quaide of the local police department,
to send an officer to meet the train
and see the woman at East Liverpool,
Ohio. This was done, but the officer,
although agreeing with Burlingham
that the identification seemed com-
plete, hesitated to make the arrest on
account of the recent mistake made
by a policeman at Rochester. Burling-
ham then wired on to Pittsburg for
two officers to meet the train, but the
telegram miscarried.

While the conductor and another
train man tried to keep the woman
under surveillance after reaching
Pittsburg, but she managed to get
away on a street car before they could
attract the attention of officers to her.

Burlingham had heard that some of
Mrs. Gunness' upper front teeth were
heavily plated with gold. When he
engaged the woman in a moment's
conversation his suspicions were stim-
ulated by the fact that her upper
teeth were covered with chewing gum,
as if she were trying to conceal them.
The woman, he says, appeared very
nervous every time she saw any one
coming near her.

With the description the officers
have of Mrs. Gunness and the added
information given by Burlingham the
police are confident of locating the
woman if she did not immediately
leave the city.

AIRSHIP TRIAL A SUCCESS.

Ohio Brothers Make Gratifying Test
in North Carolina

CLAIMS CHICAGO AND SUBU

Extravagant Claim Comes from

Who Says He Has Old Grant
CHICAGO, Ill., May 12.—Just
Chicago had settled down to enjo-
self this summer after the rigo-
winter and the depressing weath-
the early baseball season, a claim
come, which, if granted entirely
cause the city to move from its pr-
ette. The claim was lodged wit
city council last night and after
ing been sent to the city by a re-
of German Poland, who, giving
name of Jan Kosciusko, claims
a descendant from the celebrated
eral by that name. The claim
a brick mason.

According to the brick mason
great grandfather was given a
of land by the American govern-
as a token of gratitude for his
ice to the American cause.
tract, the descendant alleges,
cluded the site of Chicago and
of the surrounding country, pre-
taking in Evanston, La Grange
Island and Niles Center. But if
of a dispute he is willing to eli-
the doubtful suburbs and confi-
claim to Chicago alone.

Jan is certain that the tract
duly deeded to his great-grand-
and as duly recorded. The
however, have been lost. This
important, he says, as he has
amply proving the claim.

"I hope the city council of C
will consider these letters ade
he wrote.

As to the amount of money to
satisfy him in case the city and
should desire to retain posses-
the site instead of turning it
the rightful owner, Jan intimates
\$100,000,000 looks about right.
At the same time he wishes it
stood that he will not be too
ing in view of the fact that
people have at great expense
and money built up an exten-
in ignorance of the cloud on t
He intimates that he will settle
reasonable basis, "under \$100,



WHEN TERRE HAUTE WA

Volunteer Firemen Companies Were Organized Way Back in the 'Forties

WATER WORKS, STEAM FIRE ENGINES, AND PAID DEPARTMENTS CAME ALONG IN LATE 'SEVENTIES.

TEN DISASTERS.

While Terre Haute escaped any destruction of her public records by fire, being more fortunate in that respect than her neighbors, Sullivan, Clay, Parke and Vermillion, all of which have suffered the loss of their court houses and in most cases losing all their records, she has had some serious losses to her commercial and industrial buildings and the fear of fire has been present since her first founding.

Among the first actions of the council of the town after its incorporation was an order directing the marshal to have the fire engine cleaned and put in order, showing that under the original borough government, the trustees had seen the need of fire protection.

At a regular meeting of the council on January 7, 1839, Curtis Gilbert and T. A. Madison were appointed to have a survey made as to the practicability of bringing a supply of water from the springs and streams in the hills east of the prairie and they employed William D. Wood who was paid \$59.75 for his services in making the survey and report.

In this report of the engineer, he fixed the total cost of the works as \$4,847.00 and estimated a revenue of \$1,225.00 annually from the users of water, the town to have the use of the system to fill its cisterns free of charge.

His estimate of the population being 1,500 at the time and the supply being equal to the demands of a larger town in days to come, he strongly recommended that the water works be completed but the council took no action, fortunately for the future well being of Spencer Ball lake.

Volunteer Firemen.

Small fires occurred with great frequency and the only protection was that furnished by the volunteer fire companies with their "engines," a portable pump to be manned by the men of the company and what assistance was rendered by the throngs that accompanied them and supplied with water from a few cisterns, many of which survive to this day in the streets of the city, or from hogsheads of water brought

from the river by the draymen, among whom existed a fierce rivalry for the honor of being first on the scene, for to these went the honor as well as a premium in the price per hogshead furnished.

Occasionally there happened a fire beyond the control of such apparatus as in the case of the old Locust corner, or Farrington property at the northwest corner of Third and Wabash in March, 1849, when almost half of the block was consumed.

But the largest in extent of ground covered was the fire that started in the Chadwick livery barn on the east side of Fourth and destroyed all that stood between Fourth and the alley east of it with the exception of a small dwelling and two small shops on Ohio street. Twenty-one buildings, including Larew's carriage shop and a large frame building belonging to Mrs. Linton, both on the west side of Fourth street, but sparing the post office, at that time in the two-story double room brick south of Wabash avenue.

In the late seventies and early eighties with the advent of the water works, steam fire engines, hose reels and a paid fire department, the spectacular fires were those of the old packing houses that stood along the bank of the river north of Cherry street, saturated with grease and well dried old timbers that made a sight to be seen when they went up in smoke as they did, one a year or so for a long time.

Distillery Explosion.

Their rivals for sightseers were the fires at the old Wabash distillery, each usually preceded by a boiler explosion which added countless thrills to the excitement of the occasion. Regularly year after year these seemed to take place and a de-

lay usually brought forth a thought that another was about due, but seemingly as regular as the calendar were the fires at the old Cooper shop in the east end where so many of our flour barrels were made. Built of fragile materials and filled with hoops and staves dried to tinder, the small boy of the day never failed to attend on the numerous fires at the old Cooper shop.

But, the worst fires in the experience of the town were those of later days when despite the modern means of fire-fighting and the enormous resources back of the department, the Normal school, the Naylor opera house and the Havens and Geddes fires took their heavy toll and taxed the utmost limit of the town or city.

The old Normal school, built on seminary hill by the combined efforts of the city of Terre Haute and the state of Indiana, the latter then as now unable or unwilling to meet its educational expenses and forced to shift its burdens to others, caught fire on the morning of April 9, 1888, and by night was a smoking ruin with shattered walls and no insurance. Although the principal consideration for the gift of \$50,000.00 in cash and the grounds worth half as much more, was room to be furnished for a city high school and which the city had been obliged to relinquish, yet the city still had a half interest in the institution in that it paid half of the repairs and had offered to pay half of the insurance if the state would pay the other half.

At the time of the burning of the old Centenary church the trustees of the Normal had offered the use of the assembly room for church purposes and Centenary reciprocated on the loss of the Normal by giving their new church to the use of the Normal classes and through this act of the church, but a single day of classwork was lost, school being resumed the following morning while the fire was yet burning in the ruins of the Normal building.

For almost a quarter of a century the northeast corner of Fourth and Wabash had been occupied by Naylor's opera house, the scene of many gorgeous spectacles and the stage for many of the artists of the old days before the "movies" put other notions in the heads of theater goers, but on the night of July 21, 1896, it too, fell prey to the flames carrying with it Espenhain and Albrecht's dry goods store, Leeds' jewelry store, Goodman and Hirschler's clothing house, Goedecke's book store and the almost completed Cincinnati house in the rear.

Successor to the old Dowling hall as an amusement center, it was not rebuilt and its business carried on in later days at the Grand opera house.

More spectacular, however, was the fire which broke out in the early evening of December 19, a block east in the show window of the Havens and Geddes store and spread like a flash through the store, destroying in a few hours not only the store itself, but the adjoining wholesale house of the firm, the furniture store of Breinig and Miller, the Pixley store, Albrecht's newly built store and as far east as Swope's jewelry store. The event is commemorated by the monument on the corner, the third in memory of Claude Herbert, two other "bronze" statues erected there having been destroyed and the metal proven in each case, so it is said, to be but "spelter" instead.

Help from Marshall, Brazil and other nearby cities saved the city from worse losses and kept the fire confined to the block with the exception of the destruction of the clothing store on the west side of Fifth occupied by Thorman and Schloss.

Though often threatened by storm and flood, Terre Haute had been hurt but once in 1863 when a tornado destroyed the Congregational church, until at 9 o'clock on the night of Easter Sunday, March 23, 1913, a tornado swept across the southern portion of the city and in a few minutes did nearly a million dollars in damage. Fire in the ruins completed the work of the storm and added to it was an extraordinary rainfall along the length of the Wabash river. The Wabash was no exception in its flooding, Indianapolis and Dayton were suffering at the time and before the week closed Terre Haute experienced all the horrors of storm and flood.

Water flowed over the grade between Terre Haute and West Terre Haute, the latter town being isolated by water on all sides, the Pennsylvania and Big Four lost their tracks west of the city in the bottoms, the former being broken through at Market street in West Terre Haute, about half of the town was under water, in some cases more than ten feet ran where none was known before, houses swept away, wagons and boats became the only means of transport over paved streets and side walks.

At the height of the flood the gas plant shut down and for a few hours the power plant of the Traction company was out of commission. Days, weeks and months were required to repair the damages of a few hours and to this day in many places ruins may be seen as evidence of the destruction caused.

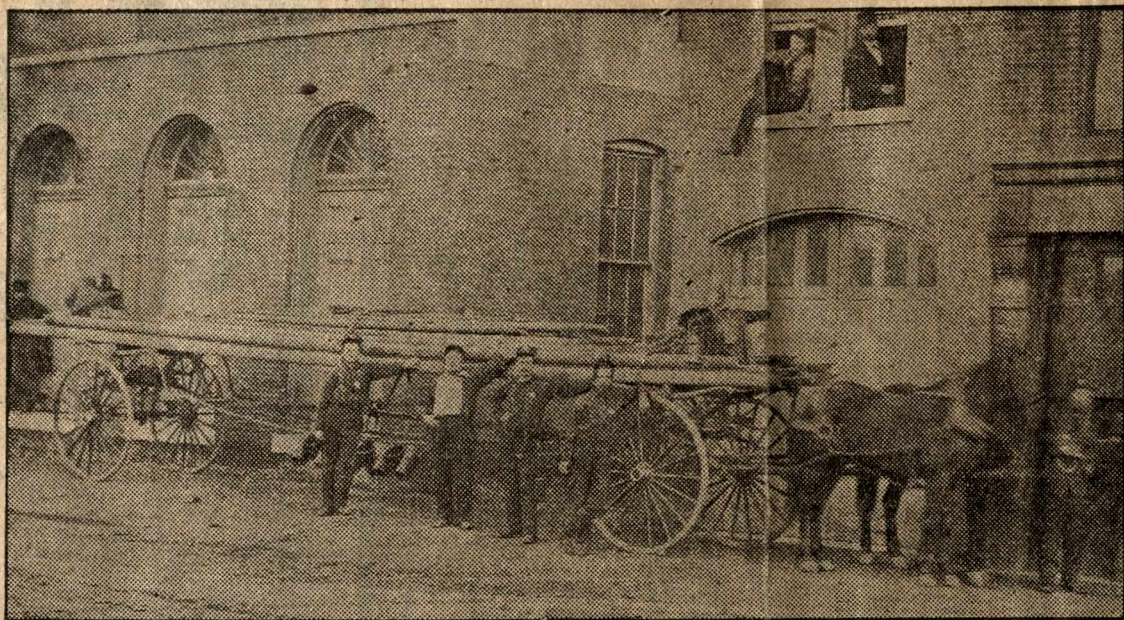
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

CONTINUED

WHEN TERRE HAUTE WAS YOUNG

Fire Dept

1931



TERRE HAUTE FIRE DEPARTMENT ABOUT 1875, NINTH STREET UNPAVED AND THE OLD GERMANIA HALL SHOWN ADJOINING FIRE HEADQUARTERS ON NINTH STREET.

First Engine Was Shipped Here From Philadelphia In 1838

Suburban Star July 26, 1931
**HOOSIER FIRE COMPANY INCORPORATED IN 1847, AND
SOME WELL KNOWN NAMES APPEAR IN ROSTER.**

By A. R. Markle.

XVIII

THE FIRE COMPANIES.

BEFORE the incorporation of the town in 1838, there had been some organization for protection from fire but there seems to be no existing record except the action of the town board at its first meeting instructed the marshal to procure some person to clean and put in order the engine.

The following week a committee was appointed to contract for a suitable location for an engine house and at the July meeting Jacob D. Early was allowed \$88.32 for freight paid on an engine shipped from Philadelphia.

In August, Mellick and Agnew were paid \$496.23 as a balance due on the engine and John Boudinot was paid \$80.00 on account of building an engine house, the balance of the contract price, \$189.00 being paid him in September.

On the fourth of September E. H. Reynolds, F. M. Irish and Wm. B. Warren asked that some benches and a desk be supplied for the engine house at a cost of not to exceed \$15.00, which was allowed by the board. At this meeting the names of James Tillotson, Henry Fairbanks and H. C. Lyon appear on a petition from the fire company, the first mention of the organization in the records.

In October, the board appointed John Crawford fire warden for the first ward, Zenas Smith for the second ward, Thomas Houghton for the third ward, John S. Burget for the fourth ward and Thomas C. Clayton for the fifth ward.

New Fire Warden.

At the December meeting the engine house was designated as the location for the holding of an election in the second ward, Alexander McGregor was appointed fire warden for the fourth ward and an ordinance for preventing and extinguishing fires was introduced and passed.

In January we find the name of the company given as the "Hoosier Engine Company" the first mention of a title.

In March, 1839, a bill for \$22.29 was allowed for a stove and pipe and the building of a chimney for the engine house and in May

Thomas Houghton was appointed to care for the house.

At a later meeting in the same month a premium was ordered for the first hogshead of water delivered at a fire amounting to \$3.00, for the second hogshead \$2.00, for the third \$1.00 and for each succeeding hogshead twenty-five cents while Henry Fairbanks was allowed \$9.92 for making 32 keys for the engine house.

In June a committee made a report on a hose carriage which is the first mention of any other apparatus than the engine.

At the December meeting a resolution to supply the fire house with four poles with hooks, chains and ropes and four ladders was passed, the ladders to be so constructed as to splice for three story buildings and two story buildings and the spliced ends to serve for one story buildings.

The following month \$100.00 was appropriated for the construction of a cistern in the first ward and fifty dollars for each of the other wards and a committee to see the county commissioners as to locating a cistern in the court house yard.

New fire wardens were appointed: E. V. Ball, Zenas Smith, Thomas Houghton, Septer Patrick and G. A. Chapman.

First "Fire Guards."

Twenty-five dollars was allowed for hauling water at the late fire and two ordinances relating to fire prevention were passed, one of which was for the formation of "Fire Guards."

January 9, 1840, the council passed a resolution for the construction of two "oak plank cisterns" in the Fourth ward at a cost not to exceed fifty dollars for both.

At the meeting held Feb. 12, 1840, Septer Patrick, E. Daniels, Joseph Mailler, Jacob D. Early, John Dowling, Salmon Wright, Jesse Conard, A. Kinney, Wait Williams, M. Hitchcock, George Hager, A. Holmes, Joseph East, C. Warren and Joseph Graff reported to the council that they had formed themselves into a company of fire guards in accordance with an ordinance authorizing the same with Demas Deming as captain, Captain James Wasson as first assistant, Thomas H. Blake as second assistant, Joseph Cooper as third assistant and Chauncey Rose as fourth

assistant and the company was accepted by the council.

A hook and ladder company, formed of O. L. Van Tassel, Dixon Porterfield, Wm. Ramage, John O'Brien, James Hook, Mahlon Newman, Zenas Smith, A. L. Chamberlain, T. A. Madison, John Crawford, Fleming Megaw, P. H. Hardy, Rufus Miner, John Warner, S. K. Dille, Z. B. Hovey, Thomas Parsons, Wm. McFadden and J. O. Jones, was accepted with T. A. Madison, foreman; John Crawford, ladderman No. 1; A. L. Chamberlain, No. 2; F. Megaw, axeman; No. 1; James Hook, axeman No. 2; John Warner, hookman No. 1; P. H. Hardy, hookman No. 2; Z. Smith, ropeman No. 1; R. Miner, ropeman No. 2; John O'Brien, pikeman No. 1; Mahlon Newman, pikeman No. 2; Wm. Ramage, steward; Dixon Porterfield, secretary, and John Crawford, treasurer, and this company was also accepted.

At the same meeting W. A. Sangster, Charles Groverman, Richard Blake, Evan Morrison, E. Glazier, H. Fairbanks, J. Phelps, A. A. Babbitt, George A. Chapman, D. S. Donaldson, R. H. Hebb, M. Elkin, A. McGregor, Jacob K. Graff, W. A. Brown, W. W. Early, L. G. Warren, Samuel Crawford, S. Musselman, D. C. Wallace, David Ryerson, John Strain, James Farrington, Thos. Dowling, John F. King, Rufus St. John, S. D. Dole, H. Starks, A. B. Fontaine, H. Westfall, A. A. Fuller, C. Gilbert, Thomas H. Perry, W. B. Hodge, D. B. Stillinger, J. M. Gurney, R. Tillotson, A. J. Oglesby, C. W. Bishop, Jonas Seeley, L. Surrell, J. Gilderslew, A. Ruthven, Joseph

Heritage, S. B. Humble, William Smith, Noah Beymer, J. B. Woodruff, Robert Wharry, Stephen Stratton, Matthew Wallace and John A. Martin, reported the organization of a fire engine company with Samuel Crawford, captain; Jonas Seeley, first lieutenant; Noah Beymer, second lieutenant; Rufus St. John, third lieutenant; S. Musselman, fourth lieutenant; Stephen Stratton, engineer; R. Tillotson, secretary, and Henry Fairbanks, treasurer, and the company was accepted. A committee was also requested to construct two good cisterns on the courthouse yard, one to be paid for by the county and one by the town.

In May the council allowed \$56.59 for work done for the hook and ladder company and \$10.00 on account of service to the engine company.

Purchases a Bell.

At the July meeting the council allowed the Hoosier Fire Engine company sixty dollars for the purchase of a bell and erecting a belfry on their engine house.

John Serrins was paid \$124.00 in November for building two cisterns in the court house yard and an additional \$29.00 was paid John and Samuel Crawford for expenses incurred in that connection.

In January, 1841, John Crawford and J. F. King reported to the council among other property of the town the following as belonging to the fire department; 1 fire engine and bell, 1 horse cart, 150 feet of hose, 2 buckets, 1 glass lanthorne, 1 speaking trumpet, 3 renches, 1

brush, 1 coal stove and pipes, in charge of Hoosier Engine company; 1 large fire hook with chain, rope and pole, 6 small fire hooks with poles and two larger one without poles not yet finished for want of suitable poles; 6 chopping axes; 2 hand saws; 5 ladders 10 to 28 feet and one glass lanthorne in charge of Hook and Ladder company. Two cisterns in courthouse yard in charge of James Farrington and John Crawford.

On December, 19, 1842 a committee reported that "the engine company having dispensed with their usual monthly exercises has caused considerable abatement of the bills for repairs to the engine. It is now, owing to the care and attention of Messers Crawford and Farrington in excellent condition and always ready for those fearful emergencies for which it was intended. The hose and carriage are in good condition together with the other fire apparatus, such as axes, ladders, hooks, buckets, etc., now in the engine house. The gentleman who kindly keeps and inspects monthly, the cisterns in the public square reports them in excellent condition and full within twelve or fifteen inches of the top of pure water."

In February, 1845, Demas Deming certified as foreman of the fire guards, that he had employed James Hook and Fleming Megaw to watch the fire on the west side of the square on December 24 and the council allowed them \$2.50 each for their services and \$28.45 for water and repairs was also allowed.

In July, 1845, A. M. Boatright, Thomas Houghton, Hiram Westfall,

C. H. Bailey, Jr., and Elijah Leake were appointed fire wardens.

The Hoosier Company.

In April, 1847, the Hoosier Fire company reported their organization as under the following officers: E. W. Conard, president; C. Miller, first vice president; Robert Wharry, 2nd vice president; William V. Williams, treasurer; William K. Edwards, secretary; Henry Jamison, 1st engineer; Samuel Connor, 2nd engineer; R. H. Hebb, 3rd engineer; Jos. C. Dole, 4th engineer; Thomas J. Melvin, 5th engineer; W. S. Clark, 6th engineer and the council accepted them as entitled to all the privileges of such a company in the town of Terre Haute.

However in July the company was reported as disbanded and the engine house put in charge of J. S. Crawford to put and keep in repair. Nearly two years elapsed before the company again presented to the council their list of members and by-laws and were reinstated on the 9th of May, 1849.

March 1, 1852 Mr. Hickcox reported as a committee to act on a petition of sundry citizens asking that the town buy a good fire engine together with the proper fixtures for the prompt extinguishment of fires that in the opinion of the committee "it is inexpedient at this time, to carry out the prayer of the petitioners as from the best information they can get, a first class engine would cost \$2,500, and the other necessary fixtures at least \$4,000 more amounting to a total of \$6,500 to which should be added \$1,000 for necessary expenses during the coming year, a sum total of \$7,500 would have to be raised to defray the expenses of the town. Your committee have come to the foregoing conclusion from the following reasons; first, there is no money in the treasury; secondly, there is but one way of extinguishing fires, if we had the engine, namely, a sufficient supply of water, which we have not got; thirdly, the percentum necessary to raise this sum would be about 35 or 40 cents on each hundred dollars of taxable property.

"This in the opinion of your committee the taxpayers would not stand. Your committee would therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution; Resolved that the petition be laid upon the table for the present and that a committee be appointed to ascertain what would be the cheapest and best mode to furnish the town with water in sufficient quantity for the prompt extinguishment of fires."

The Town Election.

March 7, 1853, the council appointed a committee to inquire into the cost and practicability of putting suitable cisterns at the corners of the public square and at such other

points as might be deemed necessary and to repair the fire engine and put it in proper order for use. They also ordered a committee to cause a water tight conductor to be made and placed in position to carry the water from "Mr. James Farrington's brick store house, situated opposite to the northeast corner of the public square and run from thence underground to the cistern situated at the crossing of Wabash and Market streets."

At the April meeting the committee reported their recommendation for building ten cisterns, three at the corners of the public square, one at Cherry and Market, one at First and Wabash, one at Fourth and Wabash, one at Fourth and Walnut, one at Ohio and Water, one at the crossing of the state road (Lafayette avenue) and Fifth street and one at a point unnamed, the whole at a cost of \$700.00, which report was adopted.

On the thirteenth of April, 1853, an election to determine whether the town of Terre Haute should be incorporated as the city of Terre Haute, resulted in 139 votes in favor of such change and 18 votes opposed and the returns being

properly filed by the council with the clerk of Vigo county, the act of June 18, 1852 became effective and the "town of Terre Haute" became but a memory.

Nearly thirty-seven years had passed from its conception in the mind of Abraham Markle as expressed in his letter to the commissioner of the general land office, more than a quarter of a century had gone by since his death in 1826, but a continued existence of nearly four score years as a city has justified his belief that here would rise a town to be proud of.

When Terre Haute Was Young: First Fire Company Established

SCENE OF THE MOMENTOUS EVENTS DURING THE TRANSLATION OF TERRE HAUTE FROM HAMLET TO TOWN.

By A. R. Markle.

XLII.

TOWN ORDINANCES.

HOW many and what ordinances governed the original borough of Terre Haute or that later set up under the title of "The President and Trustee of Terre Haute," is not recorded, but immediately after the granting of the Charter for the Town of Terre Haute, a committee consisting of Curtis Gilbert, Amory Kinney, Ransom Miller, Jacob D. Early and Robert Wallace was named to draft such ordinances "as they may deem proper in relation to matters and things concerning the town of Terre Haute."

At a previous session an ordinance defining such property as should be subject to taxation had been offered by a committee composed of Curtis Gilbert, John Cruft, Russel Ross, Samuel W. Edmunds and Ransom Miller and adopted with only Edmunds voting against it.

The committee reported June 4, 1838, and at this same meeting Amory Kinney appeared as member from the Fifth ward and was sworn. Robert Wallace also appeared and was seated, Kinney apparently not having been a member when he was appointed on the committee.

Early Ordinances.

The report recommended ordinances: "For the protection of the Public Square," "In relation to nuisances," "To provide for licensing and restraining retailers of spirituous liquors," "To prevent and remove obstructions in the streets and alleys," "To provide for licensing public shows," for a Board of Health, for assessing a revenue and for prescribing the duties of the marshal and treasurer, all of which were passed at this or the following meeting after some amendments had been adopted.

At the meeting of June 9, additional ordinances were adopted establishing grades of streets and width of sidewalks and in relation to the National road.

Aug. 10, the council passed an ordinance establishing a fire company, and on Oct. 1, the ordinance licensing shows was amended. It would seem that the previous tax of \$10.00 a day for such exhibitions was not bringing in sufficient revenue and the license was reduced to \$5.00 per day instead. The report of the treasurer made a week later shows receipts from A. H. Woodward & Co. of \$10.00 for exhibiting a caravan and circus on June 19, from W. Gates & Co. of \$30.00 each for "tax to exhibit a circus" on July 16 and 17, from Messrs. Chapman of \$30.00 for performing plays Sept. 27, 28 and 29 and from the same firm of \$30.00 for performing plays on Oct. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

At the December meeting the fire ordinance was amended and at the January meeting Wallace, Gilbert and T. A. Madison were instructed to prepare an ordinance on the Market House and such other ordinances as they might deem necessary.

The latter was finally passed on April 3, as was another with reference to slaughter houses, and on the 8th an ordinance relating to nuisances passed unanimously.

First Burying Ground.

July 31, an ordinance establishing a public burying ground was passed, this being the beginning of Woodlawn cemetery and as by its terms, further burials in the old burying ground were forbidden, it marked the end of the earlier cemetery on outlot No. 3, now occupied by the American Can factory.

Under date of Aug. 2, a committee composed of John F. Cruft, Joseph Cooper and Henry Ross reported that there was a bad mud-hole in Wabash street between lots number 17 and 40 (half way between Fourth and Fifth on the north side) which should be remedied by cutting a ditch along the east side of Fourth street as far north as might be necessary to drain the pond. Only a few months earlier the marshal had been instructed to remove a stump from the street in front of a shop on Fourth street.

An ordinance regarding dogs and another regarding hogs was brought up at this meeting and both were later withdrawn.

Oct. 7 the order passed May 17 regarding certain premiums paid for water hauled to fires was amended to provide \$3 for the first hogshead, \$2 for the second, \$1 for the third and 25 cents each for all others delivered until the fire was extinguished. James Lott was allowed \$5.25 and Joseph Parsons \$1.25 for water hauled to the fire at Meisner's house.

First Ward Divisions.

An ordinance was passed Nov. 4 providing a rearrangement of the five wards of the city. In January, 1840, the fire ordinance was amended, an ordinance for licensing taverns was passed and one for the establishment of a company of fire guards passed as a result of a serious fire in the town. Henry Lot drew \$8.50, Price Cozzens, \$5.50, Samuel Easley \$6 and William B. Taylor \$5, which at the scale provided for water would equal 79 hogsheads of water, an unusual amount.

April 10 an ordinance for raising the revenue for the ensuing year was passed and at a meeting held in November the ordinance relating to slaughter houses was amended.

But at the following session the whole matter was further discussed and the entire ordinance repealed.

A year later after considerable preliminary discussion, an entire new set of ordinances was adopted as follows:

An ordinance fixing the duties of the marshal and treasurer.

An ordinance to provide for licensing public shows and amusements.

An ordinance to prevent and remove obstructions in the streets and alleys.

An ordinance to license and restrain retailers of spirituous liquors.

An ordinance to establish the grades of streets and alleys and fixing the width of sidewalks.

An ordinance in relation to nuisances.

An ordinance in relation to slaughter houses.

An ordinance to establish a public buying ground.

An ordinance to license and regulate drays, carts and wagons.

May 3, another was added, an ordinance to regulate the sale of horses and other property at auction. The ordinance providing a fee of \$5.00 per day for shows had been changed to allow a monthly payment of \$75.00 and McKensie and Jefferson asked that their payments previously made be credited on the monthly fee. Business must have improved and their request was granted.

June 7, a penalty was added to the ordinance on auctions.

June 18, the ordinance for the protection of the public square was repealed, the fire and market house ordinances were amended, the ordinances for the burying ground and fixing the duties of the marshal and treasurer were amended by the addition of supplements, the clerk was instructed to prepare all ordinances for publication and a committee designated to have them printed in pamphlet form for distribution.

Sept. 17, the county commissioners having ordered that the city council be appointed superintendents of the public square, an ordinance for its protection was again adopted.

Mayor B. M. Harrison reported at the session held Oct. 4, that he had complied with the instructions of the council and delivered a copy of the Charter and the ordinances to the residence of each citizen within the town boundaries.

Greeting Van Buren.

June 6, 1842, an ordinance was passed to protect the graded sidewalks and a week later a resolution was passed as follows:

"Whereas a communication from

CONTIN

JAN. 10, 1932

A. R. MARKLE

PAGE 2

L. H. Scott, chairman on behalf of the committee of arrangements for the reception of Mr. Van Buren, inviting the mayor and the common council of the town of Terre Haute to participate with their fellow citizens in extending the rights of hospitality to ex-President Van Buren on his contemplated visit to this town, it is therefore resolved, that as citizens of Terre Haute we will be most happy in extending every courtesy and all rights of hospitality to Mr. Van Buren during his stay in our town—but as the body of common council, we respectfully decline filling any conspicuous station in the civic procession intended to be had on that occasion.

On the eighth of August, S. B. Gookins presented an ordinance for the suppression of vice and immorality which was adopted by a vote of four to three, Messrs. Holden, Brasher and Stewart voting in the negative.

Sept. 5, the draymen of the town petitioned for a reduction of the license fee and it was reduced to \$3.00 with a provisional reduction in the fee heretofore paid by others who still operated.

The ordinance passed in February for the "necessary drains, fills, etc., to be made on Market and Fourth streets so as to make the same of safe passage for vehicles, etc." and the work not being completed and some parts of the streets being yet unsafe for the passage of vehicles and other parts considered injurious to the health of citizens living near "from the water which collects in a body and remains until it shall be absorbed by evaporation" and the council considering that sufficient time has elapsed for the work to have been completed by those interested, the mayor was instructed to have the repairs done and report to the council the amount to be assessed against the property of those liable.

A petition was received at the meeting held Oct. 25 from property owners along Wabash street and on the east side of North First street asking that they be improved and an order was made in-

structing the mayor to grade Wabash street between Second street and the alley near Mrs. Buxton's and on the east side of First street between Wabash and Cherry streets and that estimates of the expense be filed with the council.

Also at this session an ordinance was adopted providing that after the completion of the work of grading Fourth and Market streets, the mayor should proceed to grade "those streets running in and from those streets north of the National road."

Nov. 11, 1842, it was ordered that a "water drain" be cut from Ramage's corner towards the river so as to take off the water that remained in front of Ramage's.

Dec. 5, Richard H. Hebb asked for and was granted the privilege of selling all kinds of property at auction and of paying for his license quarterly instead of annually.

Dec. 10, the council reconsidered its action of Oct. 25 regarding Market and Fourth streets and resolved that the parties responsible for the improvements might pay their assessments in "scrip-work, Mdse. or otherwise" and made the mayor their agent to arrange any mode of settlement that was satisfactory to the parties concerned. The whole amount due the town for the improvements, including an assessment of one-third for supervision and engineering was about \$435.00 and in the list are such names as James Farrington, Demas Deming, Charles Groverman, Richard Blake, J. S. Jenckes, M. W. Bedam, Thomas Burton, John Britton, J. D. Early, J. S. Casto and Kinney and Gookins.

Real Estate Levy.

Feb. 5, 1843, the council fixed the tax to be levied upon real estate, houses, furnishings, "excepting One Hundred Dollars worth to each family" and on "all and every species of Personal Property." A poll tax on every male person "not a pauper" and a tax on all ferries within the town.

At the meeting of Feb. 3, 1843, the council by a resolution created a street fund, to be raised by a tax on property in front of which work

had been done or was to be done and from which payment for labor done on such streets might be paid. Then Mr. Grover offered a resolution providing that the bills for work done on Market and Fourth streets, when presented to the council "in proper form and sufficiently authenticated, be allowed and an order drawn on the street fund."

Following its adoption, Mr. Madison offered another to the effect that the mayor should make up a roll of unpaid assessments for work done on these streets and submit it to the council at their next meeting.

At the next meeting Mr. Watson offered a resolution which was accepted providing for a committee to settle the question as to whether the entire list of owners of property on the streets affected should be assessed or only those in front of whose property the work was done on March 6, the assessor was instructed to make up a list of owners of the lots on Market and Fourth streets from the National road to Chestnut and on the side streets of Cherry and Eagle from Market to Fifth and make an appraisal of the unimproved value of such lots to be submitted to the council at their next meeting.

City Revenues.

At the next meeting the assessor reported, but on motion of Lewis O. Schultz the resolution creating the street fund was repealed and the bills ordered paid from the general fund. As he was the author of the resolution, creating the fund it is hard to understand his action in requesting its repeal.

May 1, 1843, an ordinance was passed providing for the weighing of hay and "stone coal" to accommodate Albert Lange, justice of the peace, whose offer to pay \$75 per year as rent for the mayor's office was conditional upon the passage of such an ordinance.

As the council was anxious to reduce expenses and the rent of the office occupied by the mayor was available for other purposes a

great part of the time, even a revenue of \$75 was acceptable.

As the present city hall has some space not required for constant use, the idea presented to the council nearly 90 years ago might be of some value in this age of economy. and its search for new means of revenue to help out an overburdened city government.

When Terre Haute Depended On The Volunteer Fire Department

T.H. Tribune 4/23/39

INDIANA ROOM

"The Volunteer Fire Fighters of Terre Haute" is the title of a document, typewritten, in the Fairbanks Library, which was compiled by John Warren and goes back to the year 1847. The document is as follows:

"The fire force was composed of every male citizen in the town. An ordinance of the town board required every householder should keep on hand at all times, filled with water, one leather bucket for each male in the family over the age of 18 years and under the age of 45 years. When there was an alarm of fire each person was required to go to the fire with his bucket of water. Those that lived any great distance arrived with empty buckets, having spilled the water on the run.

"On the date mentioned, 1847, and for a number of years thereafter the draymen of Terre Haute kept large hogsheads, made especially to haul water from the river to sell to the citizens for household purposes. And in the event of a fire the town board paid the drayman who got to the fire with the first hogshead of water five dollars; to the second, two dollars and fifty cents, to the third, one dollar and twenty-five cents, and for each additional hogshead of water brought to the fire, twenty-five cents, the regular price to the citizens.

"It was a great sight to see the draymen going to their homes after their hogsheads and then to the river, their two-wheeled drays, on a dead run, bouncing over every obstruction they came to, in an effort to secure first money. It sometimes occurred that two draymen would be on their way to supply customers with water from the river when an alarm of fire occurred and then an amusing race would take place to the scene of the fire.

First Fire Brigade.

"When the fire fighters arrived lines of men and boys were formed to the nearest wells, cisterns and to the hogsheads of water. One line passed the full buckets to the fire and the other line passed back the empty buckets to be filled again, and so on until the fire was put out or the house burned down. All this work was under the direction of the president of the town board and the town marshal. The first persons directing the work at a fire were Brittain Harrison, the president of the town board, and William Marr, the town marshal. They were the first chiefs of the Terre Haute Fire

"In 1847 there was where is now the north end of police headquarters, (on the alley between Ohio and Walnut streets, at Fourth street) an old frame house called the "Cannon House" from the fact that an old iron cannon was kept there and used to fire salutes on the Fourth of July and other occasions, that is when the citizens of Clinton or Marshall did not steal it, which they did more than once. This house also was used for a fire engine house for one season.

"The town board purchased from Agnew, the Philadelphia fire engine builder, a third class engine with a double deck that manned 24 men and was called the Hoosier No. 1. It was placed in the Cannon house. A fire company was organized from among the merchants and clerks in the business houses around the court house square and on Main street, Melville D. Topping, captain.

"The town board built four cisterns, one in each corner of and inside the court house square. These cisterns held one hundred barrels of water, were lined with wood and were filled by pipes running from each corner of the court house. The engine carried but two sections, or 100 feet of hose, so it was necessary to get as close to a fire as the heat would permit.

The lines of men would be formed to wells and cisterns and the drays, with their hogsheads of water, would be driven up alongside the machine and the engine box would be kept filled with water by buckets and the enginemen would play away, throwing the water on the fire through a 6 foot pipe fastened to a gooseneck on the deck of the machine, or through its 100 feet of hose.

"The first fire the boys worked on was a large two-story frame at the northwest corner of Third and Main, a dry goods store run by Hack Bosworth, in the winter of 1847. The engine company went to work but before they got their hose ready and could drop their suction in the cistern the leather bucket brigade had the fire out, much to the disappointment of the citizens who wanted to see the engine throw water.

Organize Vigo No. 2.

"This was the mode of fighting fires until the year 1855, when there came to Terre Haute to live some experienced firemen from an eastern city. Among these experts were Joe Yates, Tom Lowerre, John A. Bryan, Billy Van Brunt, Tom Long, D. W. Watson, Bob Cox, William Barr, Tom Barr, Dick Cottom, Jack Asama and others. They

immediately commenced to organize a fire department well known in the '50s before the war of the rebellion. Yates, Bryan, Lowerre, Watson and the two Barrs and Cottom organized Vigo Company No. 2.

"Van Brunt and Long went with the North Liberty No. 2 company. This company was named by the railroad men and citizens of the north end. Their house was located at Lafayette and Third streets.

"Cox and Adams and others formed the Mohawk No. 1 Company. This company was manned by men of the business district, professional men, merchants and clerks. Their machine was kept in the South Fourth street firehouse with No. 2 Company and then at Ninth street firehouse, now occupied by No. 5 Company of the paid fire department and fire department headquarters.

"The German citizens organized the first Union Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. They were a fine body of men and did fine work.

The Vigo Company No. 2 at one time had 175 men on the roll book. They were so scattered about town that on a run to a fire fresh men were jumping on the rope all along the route to the fire, which gave the company much advantage over the others in getting first water on the fire, this honor always being looked after.

"Sometimes 40 or 50 men of Company No. 2 would lay in the upstairs hall of the firehouse all night waiting for a fire so they got out quickly if there happened to be one. This was the fire force of Terre Haute in the late fifties.

"A company calling itself 'No. 4 Fire and Hose Company' was organized by the coopers of Sage's cooper shop on South Second street, but never made a run to a fire and did not last.

"The first apparatus purchased in Terre Haute after the hand brigade was a third class Honeyman engine for Company No. 2 by the city council; a second class Agnew engine from the Cincinnati fire department for No. 1 company; for Company No. 3 the city purchased a fine Jim Smith plano box engine of the first class and the best machine on the department at the time.

"The uniform of No. 2 company was a blue velvet cap, a red shirt or jacket with a black velvet collar and cuffs, open in front to display the white shirt front, black pantaloons, black patent leather belt with brass buckle. The belt and buckle with the number and name of the company.

"The hosemen carried brass spanners used to couple and uncouple the hose and made fast to the belt with large straps. And the hosemen wore leather hats that a blow from a brick could not dent.

"The city built a fire house on the ground where the old Cannon house stood, two long rooms below for the apparatus and a large hall above for social gatherings. This is the same fire house occupied by the No. 2 fire company at Fourth and Farrington, having been moved to that locality.

Offer Silver Trumpet.

"The city offered a silver trumpet to the company making a certain run and getting in action at a certain time. The contest took place at Early's grove, north of town. The No. 2 company was awarded the prize but No. 3 company protested and claimed that No. 2 ran alongside their engine and loosened the brake straps.

"A prize was offered the company throwing a stream one inch and a quarter to the greatest distance. The No. 1 company threw a stream 20 feet further than the other companies. This wonderful feat caused suspicion and on examination it was found that the nozzle of No. 1 company in use was one inch and a quarter on the outside but on removing a thimble on the end of the nozzle it showed but seven-eighths of an inch, which was the size of the stream that they had thrown. This case nearly caused a row, but they refused to give the prize to either company.

"The city allowed \$100 to each company for annual expenses, but it was not sufficient to pay the yearly expenses of the company. The members had to pay the deficit out of their own pockets besides the wear and tear on their clothing at fires. They had to go at the first tap of the alarm bell, no matter where or what doing; no time to change clothes and it was often the case that expensive suits were ruined at fires.

"One bad fire was at Professor Soule's private school on South Fifth street. Cold winter weather. They put the fire out, but before they could gather their hose and uncouple and let the water out it froze. So the 50-foot sections of hose had to be carried on the shoulders of the men to the engine house half a mile away, and laid on the floor to be thawed out by a red hot stove, while the firemen thawed themselves out with large tin cups of coffee with four ounces of Wilkerson's best bourbon to each cup.

Gilbert Home Fire.

"One of the most noted races between the two companies was a run to the Gilbert farm residence fire, out on the old National road, located where the city (Steeg) park now is. At that time it was considered a long way from the city limits and in the country. No houses

east of Ninth street except the railroad depots, the National Roadhouse and a few scattered houses. The Gilbert house caught fire on Christmas day. It was bitter cold. The 3's got a short lead on the 2's and ran east on Ohio street while No. 2 ran to Main street, got a dray and made fast time to the bridge across the canal at Ninth street, but had to cast loose from the dray on account of the steep approach to the bridge at the east end.

"No. 2 company had a good hard road to travel but just as they had passed the National Roadhouse they saw the No. 1's cutting across the open common on a short cut to the fire, and nearly 100 yards in advance, having crossed the canal on East Ohio street. No. 2 had about given up the race when suddenly No. 1's engine went over on its side, having ran into a hole in the prairie. Captain Bryan gave a few of his unearthly but inspiring yells. No. 2 broke into a run, got to the fire, found a cistern, got first water and soon had the fire out.

"Captain Bryan, in his best days, was the greatest engine captain on the department at any time. He could get more and better work out of his men either on the run, or at the brakes.

"Joseph Yates was a great fire chief. There was danger and hardships for the volunteer fireman but he had them look on the sunny side at all times and not think of danger.

"The volunteer firemen had their parades, excursions and picnics, gave balls, fairs and festivals and each company gave one large annual ball.

"No. 2 company had a dancing club of 30 members, had an annual ball each Christmas and invited firemen from Indianapolis and Evansville and Alton, Ill., and would have 100 or more at their dance. Music was furnished by the well known orchestra of that day, of two pieces, Gregg and Glazier.

"The firemen had a pet dog for their mascot by the name of Rube. This dog thought himself as much of a fireman as any member of the company. He belonged to William Smith, the captain of the Two's and lived at the firehouse. He was an odd looking dog, small, black, curly haired, with a white ring around his neck, white feet and white tip of the tail. One ear pointed straight up and the other straight down. He took the lead at all fires and parades and was most conspicuous at

all entertainments, always with a ribbon in the national colors around his neck.

"In the spring of 1860 No. 2 company asked the city council to increase the annual appropriation for company expenses and this was refused by the council, upon which forty of the oldest firemen withdrew from the company and organized the Vigo Guards. On the breaking out of the rebellion they became company D of the 11th Indiana infantry volunteers, the Lew Wallace Zouaves, and served in the first three months' call for volunteers, then reenlisted and served throughout the war, having enlisted in a body and all went to the front together.

Echoes of the War.

"The Terre Haute Volunteer Firemen took an active part in helping to put down the rebellion. Of the 400 men in the old Terre Haute Volunteer Fire Department, fully 300 went forth to fight their country's battles. Some reached high rank. Many died on the line of battle, Col. M. D. Topping leading his men at Richmond, Ky.; Major Robert Brasher killed facing the enemy; Capt. John P. Blinn was mortally wounded at Gettysburg, sending his dying message to his old friends to enlist and fight for their country.

Lieut. William Mallen of the famous 11th regiment, the life of the camp, was killed at the head of his men the day that Sheridan sent them whirling through Winchester, one of the youngest firemen, Bobby Gapin, was killed in the moment of victory, with a rebel flag wrapped around him.

"There were about eight of the firemen entered the rebel army. Just one saw it through. One other deserted at the first opportunity and enlisted in a Louisiana regiment. One other belonged to Lovell's division of the rebel army at Shiloh. He ran away on the first day of the battle and kept going until he got back home in Terre Haute. Two others were among the prisoners of war at Vicksburg and were smuggled up the river and back to Indiana by old fire fighter friends in Grant's army. One other became chief of telegraph on the staff of Gen. R. E. Lee, the rebel commander in chief.

"When the men returned home on leave or furlough the volunteer firemen met with a hearty handshake and welcome.

"The other members that did not go to the front became experts in the purchase of army supplies, and did good service.

Among The Volunteers.

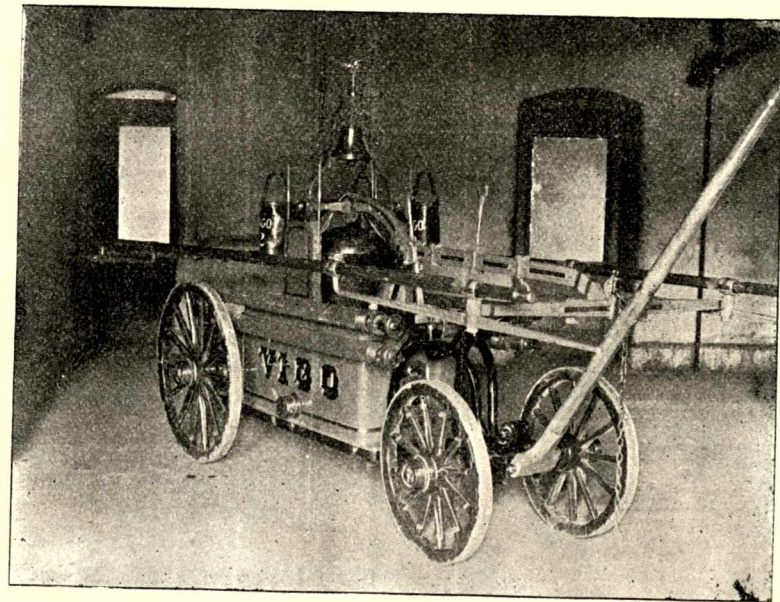
"Among the volunteer fire fighters were:

Vent Adams	James Jean
Gus Arnold	Jacob Jones
Mose Alshuler	Dr. Krider
John Adams	Pete Kizer
Robert Albertson	George Knapp
William Ball	John King
W. H. Bannister	George Landis
James Baty	William Lupton
George Boyd	Tom Lawerle
John D. Bell	Henry McLain
William Barr	Alec McJunkin
Big Tom Barr	William McCray
Bob Barr	Joe McChesney
John A. Bryan	Tom McGovern
V. L. Brown	Ben Murry
William Burton	William Manning
William Bennett	James McCray
Tom Brasher	Ed Murphy
John Burns	John McCush
Fred Buymier	Harry McMullen
George Ruymier	Henry McElfresh
Jack Baker	Wm. McQuilkin
John Beauchamp	John Messer
James Beauchamp	William Messer
Chas. Beauchamp	Frank Martin
William Burnett	Mike McFadden
Dave Bronson	Alex Parsons
Isaac Brown	Hillery Parsons
Robert Brasher	Joe Parsons
Dr. Campbell	George Planett
Tom Caughlin	Isaac Pierce
Dick Cottom	William Pointer
Charles Crooks	George Purdy
Jack Cook	Alex Patterson
James Cochran	Joe Reagin
John Cochran	Joe Roach
Eugene Callahan	Will Robbins
William DeCamp	Frank Robbins
Chris Demorest	Frank Roseman
Lem Denny	Romine
Ira Dabbie	Zack Ross
John Duval	Frank Redford
Ben Dengler	Charles Ruggles
William Dole	John Rector
Hat Eddy	Cash Reeve
Will Eddy	Dan Reed
James Ellis	Dave Reed
Henry Ellis	Henry Robbins
Phiggy Evans	Will Scudder
Gran Evans	John Scudder
James Estes	Jacob Smith
Silas Finch	Ed Stevens
Alonzo Foster	John Stevens
James Ferguson	Col. Chas. Smith
William Fisher	William Smith
Charles Fisher	Dr. John S. Smith
Frank Fuller	Sam Stone
George Fuller	Abe Shewmaker
E. France	Geo. Shewmaker
Dick Fiesman	Phillip Schloss
Charles Gilmore	John Sykes
Al Grey	Robert Scott
Duck Gossett	George Scott
Delos Gould	James Scott
George Gordon	Merritt Scott
Leon Gilmore	Charles Smith Jr.
Carl Goodman	Mart Smith
George Groves	Bert Sanderson
Sol Gibbs	Ed Strawn
Mike Griffin	George Serrin
Jack Gosnell	Tom Stewart
William Holden	F. H. Spicer
John Herrington	Ed Tillison
Zack Harris	Lew Townsend
Ed Hennessy	John Teneicke
George Hayworth	Jake Vorhees
Ward Hayworth	Mose Vanscoyce
James Hinton	Jerry Voris
Warren Harper	Tom Vance and
Ed Hebb	Rube, his dog
Dick Hebb	Rea Wall
Wm. Henderson	John E. Wilkins
John Hyde	Ray William
Jacob Huber	Garrett Winter
Rle Jeffers	D. W. Watson
Jacob Jones	Tom Wells
Ed Johnson	John Wilkerson

Early Fire Chiefs.

(Partial list.)

T. C. Buntin, July, 1856, to 1857.
 R. L. Cox, May, 1857, to 1859.
 J. C. Yates, May, 1859, to 1861.
 J. D. Bell, May, 1861, to 1863.
 J. A. Bryan, May, 1863, to 1865.
 J. D. Bell, May, 1865, to 1866.
 B. F. Dengler, May, 1865, to Jan., 1866.
 J. A. Bryan, Jan., 1866, to May, 1866.
 J. D. Bell, May, 1866, to 1871.
 W. L. Wright, April, 1871, to May, 1871.
 William Van Brunt, May, 1871, to May, 1874.
 S. Mahoney, May, 1874, to May, 1876.
 Henry Ramie, May, 1876, to May, 1877.
 Jos. Schell, May, 1877, to Aug. 1878.
 V. G. Dickhout, Aug., 1878, to Sept., 1880.
 L. G. Kretz, Dec. 5, 1882, to Aug., 1883.
 John Kennedy, May, 1883, to April, 1884.
 V. G. Dickhout, April, 1884, to Aug., 1884.
 L. G. Kretz, May, 1885, to May.
 J. D. Jones, May 14, 1890, to May, 1892.



City Fire Department History Is Recorded by Local Resident

J. H. Tribune — 4/23/39

Note: Albert A. Dicks, local insurance agent, has prepared the following history of the Terre Haute fire department in honor of the fire prevention inspection week just past. Mr. Dicks has prepared this history for the people of Terre Haute for their splendid co-operation with the organizations which sponsored the inspection.

By Albert A. Dicks.

When the average citizen speaks or thinks of the fire department in any fair-sized city it is generally with that smug, matter-of-fact manner that takes this protective element for granted, instead of attempting to analyze the intricate problems that faces them and the responsibility of protecting lives and property from the ravages of fire. Little thought is given concerning the amount of time and effort that the members of the fire department must give in making themselves into a smooth-working, efficient unit such as the modern fire fighter of today must do. The new and younger members of the department are put through the paces and given a course of instruction that is theoretical in character but backed up by numerous occasions that give them the practical experience necessary to make them capable of performing their tasks in the proper way.

Had it not been for the co-ordination of the various department units that were engaged in fighting a recent, large fire, it would not have been possible to have stopped it before doing more damage than it did and without a single, serious injury to any firemen. Fires, today, are fought on a scientific basis and the methods employed are a far cry from the primitive ones that were, of necessity, fought with plenty of effort, but these efforts handicapped by lack of proper equipment.

Back in the year 1816 a volunteer firemen's company was formed and comprised the old type "bucket brigade," in which the first man to cart a hogshead of water was paid the sum of \$8.00. By 1838 the city of Terre Haute had progressed some and purchased the first "hand pump" at a cost of \$520. This apparatus threw such a stream of water, for that day and age, that it was called the "deluge."

In 1854 an engine was purchased at a cost of \$740 and called the Vigo H2. This equipment served for many years and is now spending the remainder of its days in the Smithsonian Institute in Wash-

ington, D. C., given that institution by Charles T. Nehf, secretary and treasurer of the Volunteer Firemen's Association of Terre Haute. Incidentally, Mr. Nehf is the only living officer of that organization.

By 1857 the city was becoming conscious of the ever increasing fire hazard, due to the growth of the town, and invested in several hand pump engines, costing \$1,400 each, that were capable of throwing a stream of water about 150 feet and were manned by from 25 to 30 men, with the water supply being obtained from 35 cisterns, located in various parts of the town, and which held from 500 to 1,000 barrels of water. Some 10 of these cisterns are still in existence.

Hook and Ladder.

A hook and ladder wagon and a hose wagon were added to the local equipment.

Far from being like the hose of the present day, that which was used in the now dim past was made of leather and cleated together with copper cleats which sometimes failed to hold properly, allowing water to spurt out and reduce the pressure at the nozzle. When the Civil War broke out the volunteer system was badly crippled, due to the majority of its members joining the army, where they proved their worth in another field. The first steam engine for Terre Haute was purchased in 1866 at a cost of \$4,500. By this time the city had expanded materially and incorporated with Albert Lange as its mayor, and this engine was named the "Albert Lange No. 1" in his honor.

T. C. Buntin was the first elected fire chief of the Terre Haute department and from the ranks of the volunteers, which were composed of many representative citizens of the time, several were elected to the office of mayor. Volunteer firemen served without pay but were exempted from jury duty and poll tax. What to us would seem an amusing sight but to them a very serious one, was the pulling of the engines to a fire, this being accomplished by men, women and boys tugging at the 100-foot long ropes that formed the method of traction. Horses and buggies were sometimes commanded to drag the apparatus through sandy streets and you can imagine the plight of a young couple on their way to church to be married when a fire broke out, their horses and buggy hooked onto the long rope and they made to wait until after the fire was out before the nuptials could proceed.

The "old timers," who made a "run" in the volunteer days, can recite incidents on end that were of both an amusing and serious nature, that stand out in their mind's eye as if they had happened just yesterday. One of the old volunteer fire houses, built at Lafayette avenue and Sycamore street in 1857, is still standing and in use as a city storage house.

The foregoing is a rather concise history of the crude methods and equipment with which the volunteer fire fighters of Terre Haute fought and won their battles against the ravages of fire and is quite demonstrative of the sincere effort, courage and determination exemplified by them as worthy citizens of a community they were protecting and whose interests they were promoting.

Many Changes.

Space would not permit the description of the many changes that took place in fire apparatus building in the interim between 1866 and 1910, when the city purchased its first piece of automotive equipment, which was a combination pumper and hose truck. This truck made its first run on June 6, 1910, with our present fire chief, Ralph Dinkle, at the wheel. In this respect, Chief Ralph Dinkle has the signal honor of having driven this apparatus on the first service run and also on the last service run, after which it was stored away at the No. 10 engine house. Even in those days of automotive endeavor, the vast superiority of this type of equipment over the horse-drawn type was very marked and it was a common occurrence for the motor truck to pass the horse-drawn apparatus before the latter had run more than a few blocks, with the motor vehicle having to make its start at fire headquarters. However, there was nothing that gave the populace a greater thrill than to stand at the street edge and watch the fire horses make a run. Then, too, it was quite a sight to witness the firemen getting their hats adjusted, pulling on their rubber boots and rubber coats with one hand, while hanging on for dear life with the other. Those were the good old days and none of us who were privileged to live in that age can ever forget them.

With the advent of the motor equipment many changes took place, with improvement after improvement in both the apparatus and the methods of fire-fighting. Larger

buildings were built, congested business districts sprang up, traffic problems appeared and the extinction of fires was placed on a scientific basis, so much so, that the cities found it necessary to have the best fire apparatus to combat any type of fire that might happen in its midst. Terre Haute was and is no exception to this rule, for our equipment and the personnel of the Terre Haute Fire Department is second to none for any city its size and far superior to many of a comparative population.

In keeping with the up to the minute program prescribed for scientific fire-fighting, the Terre Haute fire department is now equipped with one Quad, which is a combination pumper, booster, hose and ladder apparatus with four hose connectors, each hose being capable of pouring out 1,000 gallons of water per minute; eight regular pumpers, one aerial truck, three service trucks, two fire alarm trucks, two cars for the chiefs, three deluge nozzles and one turret nozzle. The power of the deluge nozzles is shown when in recent demonstrations these nozzles threw a heavy stream from a position on the sidewalk above and over the dome on the top of the Vigo county court house. This equipment, the fire alarm system department and the inspection department are manned by a personnel of 116 men, placed at nine locations throughout the city. There are three regular fire inspectors on duty at all times and, in accordance with a city ordinance, the entire fire department is put into inspection services in the city, generally in the months of April and October.

Late Improvements.

One of the late improvements for the fighting of oil or gas fires is the use of Foamite, which, when poured into the hose in powder form, comes out of the nozzle in a spray of foam that quickly extinguishes this type of fire. Then, too, the old type chemical that used to ruin anything with which it came in contact, has been discarded and new type extinguishing fluid has been substituted that puts out the fire, but with far less damage to adjacent articles.

All organizations or operating groups must have a directing head and in the case of our local fire department, Chief Ralph C. Dinkle holds this executive position, being ably assisted by Assistant Fire Chiefs Richard Gray and Charles L. Elam. Assistant Chief Elam has been a member of the department for some 33 years while Assistant

Chief Gray has been in the service for a period of 18 years. Chief Dinkle has been a member of the department for over 35 years and has served in all branches of the service from "master of the dog watch" on through every official capacity until his appointment as chief of the Terre Haute fire department on Jan. 1, 1939. The citizens of Terre Haute should feel proud to have their interest protected by such efficient men as comprise our local fire department and we bespeak for them the utmost courtesy in their efforts in guarding our welfare and peace of mind where fire protection is concerned.

INDIANA ROOM

REFERENCE
CIRCULATE

HISTORY, YEAR'S RECORD OF

Fire Fighters Keep Down

Fire Losses in Terre Haute



RALPH C. DINKEL.

Chief of Terre Haute Fire Dept.

BY CURT BRIDWELL.

The assessed valuation of property in the civil city of Terre Haute for 1939 was \$53,363,720, and the assessed valuation of property adjacent to the city but situated without the city limits will exceed \$12,000,000. The prevention of destruction by fire of this vast amount of property depends primarily upon the Terre Haute fire department.

The manner in which the Terre Haute fire department is measuring up to its responsibilities is indicated by the fact that the department now holds and has held for the past several years a certificate of award for meritorious service from the National Fire Underwriters' Association of America. These citations are given only to departments that have a proven dependable record.

For the year of 1939 the Terre Haute fire department answered 1,023 alarms. Property with a valuation of \$1,568,720.70 was threatened by flames, but the actual fire loss insofar as records have been cleared for 1939 was \$168,224.50. It is an interesting thing to note that records of the fire department prove that more fire alarms come between the hours of 9 A. M. and 4 P. M. than at any other time.

The three most spectacular and destructive fires of 1939 were the Kersey Building fire on April 6; the Vigo Recreation Bowling Alley fire on Aug. 12, and the St. Nicholas Hotel fire on Nov. 20.

Kersey Storage Fire.

The Kersey Building at Third and Walnut streets was being used as a storage warehouse by the General Furniture Company at the time of the fire and the flames swept through the three stories of the structure causing many thousands of dollars of loss both to the building and to its contents.

The fire at the Vigo Recreation, 210 South Ninth and One-half Street, was discovered early in the morning. The flames had started in the interior of the building which was just nearing completion and the inside of the structure with the twelve bowling alleys and new equipment had to be replaced and the building repaired before the new center could be dedicated.

In the St. Nicholas Hotel fire two men — Warren Blair and William Jewell, both residents of the hotel—lost their lives and a third man had to be brought down a ladder placed at an outside window. Other residents of the hotel were forced to flee from the building in scant attire.

For the year of 1938 the department made 833 runs. Property with a valuation of \$1,818,880 was endangered by flames, but the fire loss for the year was held to approximately \$74,152.

For 1937 a total of 930 runs were made with the property threatened valued at \$2,157,095 and with fire loss figured at \$51,691.

For 1936 property of the valuation of \$1,434,521.42 was endangered and the loss held to \$62,541.37.

For 1935 the property valuation threatened by fire was \$1,353,338.81 with the fire loss reported at \$90,399.33.

For 1934 the property value where fire had started was \$2,158,827 and the loss was figured at \$131,948.70.

For 1933 property valued at \$1,303,822 was threatened by fire, but the loss was held to \$59,157.60.

For 1932 the property valuation where fires started was \$3,944,698 and the fire loss was \$85,490.

For 1931 the property endangered had a value of \$3,365,142 with the loss figured at \$98,634.70.

Worst Loss in Decade.

In 1930, the year of the disastrous St. Benedict's Church fire, the valuation of property threatened by flames was \$3,296,200 and the fire loss was the highest in the past ten years, \$305,393.69.

The personnel of the fire department at the present time consists of 116 men—a chief, two assistant chiefs, a superintendent of the fire alarm system and two assistants, three fire alarm operators, a fire equipment machinist, two fire prevention inspectors, the captains, lieutenants and privates.

There are twenty motorized hose, aerial, booster pumps and service cars available. A department trailer for the hauling of a diving outfit, a resuscitator and other life-saving equipment and for the newly purchased portable generator and floodlights for use in emergencies.

Ralph Dinkel is chief of the Terre Haute fire department with Charles Elam and Richard Gray as assistant chiefs.

The history of the fire department dates back to almost the time that the town of Terre Haute was founded, 1816. But the fire department of the early days formed a decided contrast to the organization at the present time.

Early Volunteer Days.

In the pioneer days protection of property from fire was a question faced by the early settlers with the organization of "bucket brigades" and in 1821 when the town of Terre Haute contained thirty-five city blocks, bounded on the north by Eagle Street, on the east by Fifth Street, on the south by Swan Street and on the west by Water Street, there are old records that tell of the volunteer bucket brigades.

According to a history of the fire department written by Charles T. Nehf, an honorary member of the fire department and secretary-treasurer of the old Volunteer Department Association (Nehf served twenty-four hours as assistant fire chief in 1938 as a recognition of his long service to the department), the first piece of fire-fighting equipment was purchased by town officials in 1838. This was a hand-pump, double-decker fire engine costing \$520 and was called the De-luge. In 1854 another hand pump was purchased and named Vigo No. 2. This engine is now an interesting relic placed in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D. C. In 1856 the Mohawk, another hand-pumper, was added to the equipment, and in 1857 three "piano box" hand-pumpers were purchased and a year or so later a German ladder wagon, a six-hand pump engine and a four-wheel hose wagon was purchased by public subscription.

In 1866 the incorporated city of

PAGE 1

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Terre Haute bought its first steam fire engine and this was called the Albert Lange No. 1 after Mayor Albert Lange. In 1867 another steam engine appeared and in 1887 a chemical engine was added. In 1890 an aerial truck was purchased.

In the early seventies the volunteer system was succeeded by "per month" men. During all these early days the water used for fighting fires was pumped from cisterns constructed at designated spots over the growing city.

The Terre Haute Water Works built in 1873 with its pressure system ended the "cistern" necessity for the fire department and the year of 1885 is marked as the "red letter" year for the local department for it was in this year that the nonpartisan metropolitan organization of the department was accepted. This arrangement made fire department tenure permanent during proper conduct and not subjected to the "will and whim" of the changing political trends. Uniforms came for the members of the department and the old hand pumper days gave way to horse-pulled engines.

Firemen's Pension Law.

The firemen's pension law was enacted in 1895 by the Indiana Legislature and the pension system today remains as one of the sacred trusts of the present department.

In 1917 and 1918 the good old faithful fire horse days ended with the motorization of the fire department and in 1923 the Gamewell fire alarm system was installed.

A relic that is highly prized by the Terre Haute fire department is an old solid silver "Fire Chief's" trumpet. Legends of the fire department indicated that the trumpet was presented to the No. 2 Company when Henry Ramme was acting as chief in May of 1876.

While the record of the Terre Haute fire department through the years has been one of service and endeavor, Terre Haute has had her destructive fires. Many members of the fire department at the present time recall some of these fires and have heard members who are now dead tell of some of the others.

The old Naylor Opera House Building at Fourth and Wabash burned July 21, 1896, and a picture of the destruction of this building hangs in the fire department headquarters.

The most destructive fire insofar as property loss was concerned, according to fire department records, was the Havens & Geddes fire on Dec. 18, 1898. In this blaze practically an entire city block at Fifth and Wabash burned with over thirty business concerns sustaining heavy losses and several dwellings destroyed. The total property damage in the fire was established at \$678,244.07 and it will be remembered that Claude Herbert, an elevator operator for Havens & Geddes, and Katie Maloney, a clerk, and Henry Nehf, brother of Charles Nehf, lost their lives in the fire. John Osterloo, a city fireman, received burns and injuries that later resulted in his death.

Hominy Mill Fire.

The second most destructive fire in Terre Haute according to recorded loss, was the blaze that destroyed the American Hominy Mill

with the loss figured at \$500,000. This fire came Sept. 12, 1922.

The Lederer-Felbelman fire, between Sixth and Seventh streets on Dec. 28, 1920, caused a loss of \$37,000. The St. Benedict's Church fire on July 30, 1930, caused a loss of \$167,305.63. The American Car and Foundry fire on Oct. 13, 1919, caused a property loss of \$129,239.80 and the Temple Laundry fire of June 22, 1920 caused a loss of \$70,000.

The fire at Indiana State Teachers College, then called Indiana State Normal School, on April 19, 1928, and the Garfield High School fire on April 28, 1934, are probably the best remembered fires in educational buildings.

The Indiana Milling Company fire in October of 1917, with John Bolland, a city fireman, losing his life in the blaze; the Kuhn elevator fire a few years ago, several fires at the plants of the Terre Haute Paper Company and the St. Joseph and other church fires recall memories for the firemen that make them all the more determined to prevent major fire losses in the future if it is within their power to do so.

New Equipment.

According to Fire Chief Ralph Dinkel, the fire department for the past several years have felt the need of new equipment and the experience of 1939 stressed this need. In January of 1940 a new portable generator with three large floodlights capable of throwing a beam of light of 1,800 candle power strength was added to the equipment. This will furnish light for emergencies when electric power is disrupted or could even be used to furnish power for the fire alarm system if occasion ever arose, so Chief Dinkel points out.

Chief Dinkel also stresses the fact that several of their pumpers and trucks are becoming antiquated. The usual life of a piece of fire equipment, so members of the department point out, is about twelve years. Some of the aerial trucks and pumpers now in use by the department have been in service from sixteen to twenty-four years. New hose is also needed, so the department announces.

"We expect to do in the future just what we have tried to do in the past, prevent insofar as possible the destruction of property and lives by fire, and in this work we ask the co-operation of the general public," said Chief Dinkel.

PAGE 2

JAN. 31, 1940

CONTINUED

ONE OF THE DESTRUCTIVE FIRES OF 1939



Fatal fire swept through the three floors of the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Terre Haute's First Fire Engine Was Handled With Loving Care

TERRE HAUTE TRIBUNE

JUL 23 1947

By A. R. Markle.

Obstacle Race Usually.

One of the first actions of the president and trustees of the Town of Terre Haute was to order the cleaning and repair of the fire engine inherited from the borough trustees.

Some kind of an organization had been functioning as a fire department but there are no records of the earlier government nor did there seem to have been any records for the new government to take over for their first duty was to appoint a committee to draft ordinances and among those recommended in their report of June 4, 1838, was one regarding a fire company.

This went into operation in August as a volunteer organization consisting of every man between the ages of 18 and 45 who was required to keep in his house a leather bucket filled with water to supply the engine on an alarm of fire.

The engine was a four-wheeled wagon on which was mounted a pump operated by handle bars which could be worked by as many as a dozen men. Water was supplied through a suction hose which ordinarily laid in a large box under the pump but could be dropped into a cistern or barrel of water, but was first kept filled by a bucket brigade of two rows of men, one row passing the filled pails from a nearby well and the other returning the empties after the water had been poured into the box. The volunteers took great pride in the engine and in their work.

A graduated rate of payment for water brought to the fire from the river by the draymen. The first hogshead delivered brought \$5.00; the second, \$2.50; the third, \$1.25, and successive ones 25 cents.

Stumps still stood in some of the streets, deep mudholes in others and the mad race of the draymen striving for first place and money, frequently resulted in short measure in the delivery.

With each engine was 200 feet of two-inch hose, leather in those days before rubber, and a nozzle of one and a quarter-inch diameter, though the earliest engines used a six-foot length of iron pipe.

Other and larger engines were bought in the years to come but it is surprising what efficient work was done with these crude affairs.

The early ordinances required ladders to be kept ready for use and at a very early day the first engine house was built where now is an alley on the west side of Fourth between Ohio and Walnut. Later this was replaced by a two-story house in the same location with two rooms below for two engines and a large hall above. Later yet a shed was built on the side to house the hook and ladder truck which followed in time.

By this time the town had bought an Agnew engine from Philadelphia, a double decker that would accommodate the labor of 24 men. The town had built four cisterns, each holding 100 barrels, in each corner of the Courthouse Square. Their first serious call was on the occasion of the fire at Locust Corner where now stands the Shandy Building when the engines could draw water direct from them instead of relying on the pails.

Time Brought Growth.

About 1855 three companies were organized, the Vigo Engine and Hose Co. No. 2; the Northern Liberties, No. 3, and the Mohawk, No. 1. Numbers one and two were housed in the Fourth street house and the Northern Liberties in the

building that still stands at Lafayette and Sycamore.

Competition was strong, rivalry for "first water" on a fire often threatened riots but seldom added to the damage.

Membership was considered an honor and there was always a waiting list, though the personal cost was severe. The town paid \$100 a year toward the upkeep of the apparatus but the men furnished their own uniforms and they were indeed a spectacle. The men of No. 2 wore a blue velvet cap, a red shirt with black velvet collar and cuffs, the bosom of the shirt open to show the white shirt beneath it; black trousers and a black patent leather belt with a brass buckle with the name and number of the company. On many occasions the uniform was not in use, the member being engaged in some social affair had no time to go home and dress and was compelled to appear in his dancing togs.

Among the members were many of our most prominent men, business and professional, proud of their membership in the companies.

There were Robert S. Cox, Demas Deming, Riley McKeen, Joe Yates, Billy VanBrunt, Dave Watson the elder, John Bryan, Tom Lowry, Billy Barr and his brother "Big Tom," Jack Adams, Dick Cottom, John F. Cruft, Dick Hebb and scores of others.

Scott's Row Burns.

One of the most strongly fought was the fire at the second door from Fourth on the north side of Wabash which broke out in stored rags on the third floor and was fought for hours. Another was that at Third and Wabash which destroyed all the frame buildings known as Scott's Row, out of the ashes of which grew the Phoenix Row. The most spectacular however was that of Britton Harrison's Candle Factory at First and the Canal. The contents together with certain chemicals increased the peril.

These early fire fighters deserve our esteem and honor.

Fire Prevention Week Recalls Early History Of Department

Captain John Lamb of the fire department has prepared a history of Terre Haute fire fighters to tie in with the public education phase of the current Fire Prevention Week. The following is an excerpt:

About the time William Henry Harrison and Zachary Taylor were running the Indians out of this territory a group of pioneers looking for a permanent village site chose a piece of high ground a few miles south of Fort Harrison.

They laid out what was later to become the city of Terre Haute. This was in the year 1816, just four years after the historic battle at Fort Harrison.

The village originally plotted covered the present area between the Wabash river and Fifth street and from Oak street to Eagle street.

Fire Conscious.

In all probability the early settlers were more conscious of the danger from fire than we are today. They built their forts and homes by the sweat of their own hands.

If the building caught fire through their own carelessness or from a flaming Indian arrow, and if they managed to survive, they couldn't just move into a hotel and wait until the insurance company paid off. They went into the forest again and started hacking out the logs for the laborious job of rebuilding for themselves.

Realizing the constant danger of fire, the pioneers organized bucket brigades and placed barrels of water and buckets at the most convenient spots around the settlement.

It was pretty much a matter of mutual aid, but an early village ordinance did provide an award of one dollar to the first man delivering a hogshhead of water to the scene of a blaze.

Equipment Purchased.

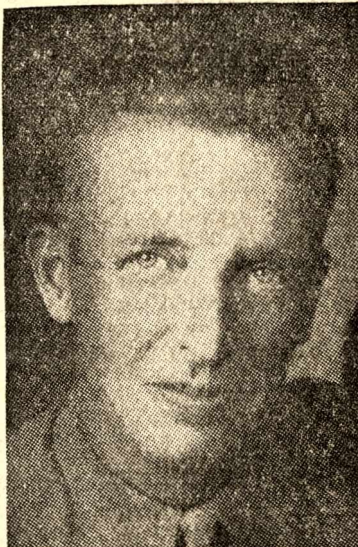
Twenty-two years after the city was founded it had grown to such an extent that a hand cart and ladder truck were built locally and the town fathers invested \$540 in a double-decker hand pump.

They optimistically called this outfit "The Deluge." On the water box of this elegant rig was printed the battle cry of fire fighters down through the years, "Fear not, we come."

The equipment was kept in the old Grover foundry at First and Walnut streets. A short time later the local governing body spent \$740 and purchased a piece of fire equipment that has become a real historical item. It was called, "The Vigo."

In Smithsonian Institute.

The next time you happen to be in Washington, D. C., make a visit



CAPT. JOHN LAMB.

to the Smithsonian Museum and there you will see, in all her glory, "The Vigo," Terre Haute's hand pumper of over a hundred years ago.

It was placed there by Charles T. Nehf, member of a pioneer family and believed to be the only surviving member of the Terre Haute volunteer fire group.

In 1857, as the town grew, four more piano-box type hand pumpers were purchased. And it was in this year that the first engine house was built.

It was what is still known as Fire Station No. 1, Lafayette avenue and Third street. No longer used to house companies, it has a tower where ladder drills are held today.

Belle of the North.

One of the old hand pumpers, the "Northern Liberty," was placed at Station 1 as soon as it was built. The "Vigo No. 2" made runs out of the old city hall at Fourth and Walnut streets. The "Niagara" and "Mohawk" were stationed where fire headquarters now stands on South Ninth street.

In addition there was a German-built ladder truck and also a hose cart named after the daughter of a prominent local banker. In addition, the cart was dubbed, "Belle of the North."

All of the equipment was hand-pumped and hand-operated.

Finally in 1866, the incorporated city of Terre Haute purchased the first of those famous outfits which introduced a real element of romance into fire departments.

Horse-Drawn Steamers.

It was a handsome steam fire engine, called the "Albert Lange," in honor of the incumbent mayor. Those who can't remember seeing one of these horse-drawn steamers in action are really unfortunate.

I don't remember anything in my boyhood days which thrilled me more than the sight of those wonderful outfits flying down the street with the bells clanging, the drivers leaning forward and hanging onto the reins for dear life as they urged the horses to speed.

The horses themselves had fire in their eyes, mains whipping in the wind and sparks flying from their hoofs, every muscle exerted to the job.

Engines bounced over rough streets, belching black smoke, which trailed out far behind.

Great Rivalry.

Every kid in town wanted to

grow up to be a fireman in those days, and no wonder. The old steamers were fairly efficient outfits, even if judged by standards of today. They built up a good working pressure in six minutes and furnished plenty of water for two good streams.

It was during that time that the volunteer fireman reached the height of his glory. All the companies were volunteer groups and the rivalry between them was intense.

A matter of great concern was that a company be first to get water on a fire.

For a time a canal boat or an isolated shanty was considered fair game. Many a one of these mysteriously caught fire with a volunteer company all assembled just around the corner.

Although the technique used by the oldtimers to bring glory on themselves has passed on, the same spirit of competition exists today among fire companies.

In the former days everyone in town who amounted to anything belonged to a fire company. They must have had a lot of fun.

War Recalls Cisterns.

The old hand pumps carried their own water and were kept supplied by bucket brigades. By the year 1866, however, 35 cisterns had been dug at strategic points about the city.

These held from 500 to 1,000 barrels of water. When the Japs hit us in 1941, the fire department seriously considered rehabilitating the cisterns in case water lines were knocked out in an air raid. England used similar water supplies during the blitz there.

First salaried firemen were hired here in 1878 at \$20 per month. Steamer engineers drew \$1,000 a year and drivers \$750. At first the paid men were completely at the mercy of politicians and were discharged if a new administration came in from the wrong side of the fence.

In 1885 the non-partisan metropolitan system was introduced and prevails today. The firemen's pension law was enacted by the state legislature in 1895.

First in the State.

Terre Haute purchased the first piece of motorized equipment in the state of Indiana, fifth in the United States, during 1910. It was a four-cylinder Oldsmobile and was a combination hose and chemical wagon. It is still shown to the public during fire prevention drives.

can't

Last of the fire horses went out of service in 1918. An alarm system, doing away with bells which clanged from the top of fire houses, was installed in 1923.

The bell from Station 1 now calls worshipers to mass at Sacred Heart church. No. 2 bell rings from the steeple of Westminster church at Twenty-second street and Wabash avenue. The Methodist church, Fourth avenue and Center street, has the bell from Station No. 3.

Through 132 years, the tradition of the department has been speed, coupled with safety and efficiency. We aim high, for continuing low fire losses and prevention of loss of life. With continued good will of fellow citizens we feel we can hit the mark.

READERS SERVICE

VERTICAL FILE Sunday, December 28, 1952.

First Volunteer Fire Department Here Was Founded About 1838

By A. R. Markle.

In the early 1830's there were several loosely formed volunteer fire companies with or without any authority to govern them.

But with the incorporation of the town of Terre Haute in 1838, the town council made provision for the care and operation of the equipment.

The need for further equipment is shown by the Town Council authorizing the town marshal to have the fire engine painted and repaired. We have very little information on this particular engine, but in June Jacob D. Early was instructed to build a house for this engine.

In July Mr. Early reported he had paid \$88.32 on a new engine from Philadelphia, and for this engine the council allowed \$496.23, balance to be paid to Mellick and Agnew. John Boudinot was paid \$269.00 for building the engine house. This house probably occupied what is now the alley on the west side of Fourth between Ohio and Walnut.

In September the council allowed \$15 for benches and desk for the fire house.

In October the board appointed John Crawford fire warden for the first ward, Zennas Smith for the second ward, Thomas Houghton for the third ward, John S. Burget for the fourth ward and Thomas C. Clayton for the fifth ward. In December Alexander McGregor was appointed fire warden for the fourth ward.

All these men considered it an honor to hold their offices and served without pay.

Hoosier Engine Company.

In January 1839 the Hoosier Engine Company was occupying the fire house. This is the first of an organized volunteer fire department. The size of this company is noted by the fact that Henry Fairbanks was allowed \$9.92 for making 32 keys for the engine house.

There was great rivalry when later companies were organized and each company tried hard to be the first at the fire. Many fights occurred at these occasions, and it is said that some of these companies were so anxious to win this honor that they arrived before the fire which followed soon after.

However that may be, action really started before the arrival of the fire engine and its water. In the case of a small building a grappling hook on a chain was thrown over the house, and with a great deal of heaving and hauling by volunteer workers the whole structure would soon be torn down. If necessary a man would go up on a ladder, chop a hole in the roof and fix the hook firmly in place and the building was soon leveled.

If the roof was already gone, and that sometimes happened, the man would use the poles to push the walls in thus confining the fire to one spot.

These engines were man operated pumps mounted on wheels and drawn by ropes and the men of the company assisted by everybody else who was going to the fire; which included all the boys in the town big enough to "run with a machine."

Mounted on the carriage were long bars on each side by which six or eight men on each side could operate the pump which drew water from a tank on the wagon, one located at the northwest corner of the public square a conductor of body was expected to keep this wooden pump logs carried rain tank filled by carrying water from nearby wells, but for this purpose the council had authorized the

payment of \$3.00 for the first hogshead of water, \$2.00 for the second hogshead and \$1.00 for the third and 25 cents for each additional hogshead. This water was hauled from the river on two-wheel drays. Each drayman on the alarm of fire loaded his hogshead on his dray and raced down to the river where he and what help was offered filled it and raced back to the fire.

So strong was the rivalry that there was always plenty of water tain. This was Judge Deming, even at 25 cents a hogshead. The father of Demas who lived until drivers of the first three drays our time, and who died in 1922, probably felt rich enough and The old judge was one of the founders of the First National Bank, and in time was succeeded by his son.

Allowing about one-third discount for the water lost in the mad race which was usually sufficient to create a bucket brigade to keep the empty tanks full.

More Appartus.

The engine carried a short supply of two inch leather hose with a nozzle, but in June a committee reported on a purchase of a hose carriage, this being the first mention of any other apparatus.

At the December meeting a resolution to supply the fire house with four poles with hooks, chains and ropes and four ladders was passed, the ladders to be so constructed as to splice for three-story buildings and two-story buildings and the spliced ends to serve for one-story buildings.

By that time the town had a pumping engine, a fire house, a hose carriage, and hose ready for use at any time.

Early in 1840 the need for more certain water supply resulted in an appropriation of \$100 to build a cistern in the First ward and in each of the other wards fifty dollars was allowed for a cistern. These cisterns, which at one time numbered more than a dozen, were built of heavy oak planks made water tight by calking with oakum. They were approximately ten feet square and eight feet deep and being water tight they were kept filled with water hauled from the river. But in case of the water from a tank on the wagon, one located at the northwest corner of the public square a conductor of body was expected to keep this wooden pump logs carried rain tank filled by carrying water from nearby wells, but for this purpose the council had authorized the

payment of \$3.00 for the first hogshead of water, \$2.00 for the second hogshead and \$1.00 for the third and 25 cents for each additional hogshead. This water was hauled from the river on two-wheel drays. Each drayman on the alarm of fire loaded his hogshead on his dray and raced down to the river where he and what help was offered filled it and raced back to the fire.

Whether there was any means of keeping other cisterns full is not known. In the laying of the street car tracks as they rounded this corner one of these cisterns was uncovered.

In February, 1840, an organization a company of "fire guards" which asked for authority from the council was granted.

Demas Deming was elected captain. This was Judge Deming, even at 25 cents a hogshead. The father of Demas who lived until drivers of the first three drays our time, and who died in 1922, probably felt rich enough and The old judge was one of the founders of the First National Bank, and in time was succeeded by his son.

Captain James Wasson, first assistant to the captain, had been landlord of the Eagle and Lion tavern.

Thomas Holdsworth Blake was elected second assistant. Mr. Blake was the first president judge at the organization of the Vigo County Court, but he did not appear until the second session of the court. He died in Cincinnati in 1849 on his return home from Washington, D. C.

Joseph Cooper was the third assistant. He was one of the founders of the First Baptist Church.

Last and by no means least was the fourth assistant, a gentleman who gained fame and fortune here by the name of Chauncey Rose. If you have seen his portrait you will

be surprised at the thought of our public benefactor ever pulling the engine to a fire.

The hook and ladder company was formed with these men: O. L. Van Tassel, Dixon Porterfield, William Ramage, John O'Brien, James Hook, Mahlon Newman, Zenas Smith, A. L. Chamberlain, T. A. Madison, John Crawford, Fleming Megaw, P. H. Hardy, Rufus Miner, John Warner, S. K. Dille, Z. B. Hovey, Thomas Parsons, William McFadden and J. O. Jones.

Of these men, James Hook had much to do with the building of Terre Haute. He built the original school on Seminary lot at Fourth and Mulberry which in 1878 he demolished for the erection of the school named in his honor which was in turn demolished in the last few years. One hundred years ago he operated a linseed oil mill on Third, now the site occupied by the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company.

John Crawford, with his brother Samuel, once owned the east half of the block which faces on Seventh street between Cherry and Wabash.

J. O. Jones was an early postmaster. He lived in a house on the site of the present Hunter Laundry.

Zenas Smith was a building contractor here who lived at the corner of Fourth and Poplar.

A. L. Chamberlain was a prominent contractor who did a great deal of work for Chauncey Rose. The Pennsylvania freight house is an example of his work. Built in 1853 it was the Union Station of the Terre Haute and Richmond, the Terre Haute and Alton, and the Evansville, Terre Haute, and Crawfordville Road, the latter two of which will celebrate their centennial here next year.

About this time a new company was formed headed by Samuel Crawford. This man was the first treasurer of the town of Terre Haute, and had been treasurer of the original organization known as the Terre Haute Borough.

Another member of this company was Stephen Stratton, who operated the first foundry in Terre Haute where now stands The Hazeldine Machine Shops.

Another was Thomas Dowling, who traded the Wabash Courier for the house built for David S. Donaldson and this house is now the Rose Home for Aged Women.

Still another was Dr. Richard Blake, founder of most of the Blake family here and one of our early physicians. Dr. Blake's wife was a sister of Charles Groverman, another member of the company.

Another of these early firemen was Richard R. Hebb whose son George Hebb was for many years printer and publisher here.

A little later the council received a petition to hold an election calling for the incorporation of the city. The election was held April 30, 1853, and the result provided a successor for the Town of Terre Haute.

Early Fire Departments Here Did Their Work In Real Competition

TERRE HAUTE TRIBUNE

MAR 25 1951

By A. R. Markle.

EVEN though in our modern times an accidental fire is an ever present hazard, to the citizens of a century ago the fire alarm brought visions of catastrophe. The financial loss at that time, of course, was much less than now because of the less expensive materials used. Then the losses from fire in a home seldom amounted to more than one hundred dollars in furniture and clothing and many times could soon be replaced by the owners' own art and skill. While today a sitting room chair may be worth more money than the entire contents of the early home, and the modern woman's gown probably exceeds in value the entire wardrobe of the household of one hundred years ago.

At that time the average house was smaller and cost much less to build, not being constructed of the expensive materials used today, some of which were not in common use and others that were unheard of at that time. Even in the life of the present generation a very fair house could be built for a thousand dollars, where now it would cost that much to roof a house and paint it.

Checking the Fires.

In those days many small fires could be put out with a small amount of water, while later the much flimsier construction would cause the fire to spread very rapidly and be beyond saving in a very short time.

The arrival of help in those days was usually prompter than now even in these days of high speed automotive apparatus because all of the immediate neighborhood went into action at once. Every household was required by law to have at hand something which would help check the fire.

Before the crude fire fighting apparatus came into popular use, everyone was supposed to have a leather bucket constantly at hand filled with water; someone in each block of houses would have at hand a ladder or a grappling hook with a long chain or a pike-pole with an iron hook at the end for the purpose of tearing down the building, if that became necessary. Today we read and hear of the term "hook-and-ladder" without any idea of the ladder wagon with its quota of poles, complete with hooks, which was usually the first aid, arriving even before the water pumper.

The members of the fire departments, with practically no formal organization at all, piled out of their houses and ran to the scene of the fire ready to pull down the building and even the adjoining one as a last resort to prevent the spread of the fire.

The First Fire Engines.

The early fire engines which were, in fact, only large force pumps, were often operated by an organized company who worked the handles up and down on each side of the engine, much as the section hands pump their hand-cars on the railroads. This forced water from a small tank out through a hundred feet or so of leather hose, little larger than our modern garden hose. The tank on the engine was kept filled by the "bucket brigade" which consisted of two lines of men, one line passing from one to another filled buckets from a nearby cistern or well, while the other line returned the empty buckets in the same manner.

The Rival Companies.

There was fierce competition between the various companies which were known by such names as "Mohawk," "Oneida," "Vigo," "Northern Liberties," and "Deluge," or other fancy names. The members of these companies were so eager to be the first to arrive and get water on the fire that charges were often heard that the winner in such a race was already on the scene when the fire was touched off by one of its members. But of course these charges were malicious because no one would do such a thing, even though all were willing to stake their lives almost, to beat out their rivals.

As property became more valuable and losses consequently greater steps were taken to insure a plentiful supply of water, and in time wooden cisterns were built at each of the four corners of the public square as well as at other prominent locations. To see that these cisterns were kept full became the duty of the town marshal.

Such a water supply was so essential that the town employed W. J. Ball, supervising engineer on the old Cross-Cut Canal, to plan a water supply system which would

carry the water from what is now Deming Park into Terre Haute to keep these cisterns filled. The survey was made and the plan called for pump-logs to convey the water from this source into town and the engineer reported on the cost and efficiency of such a system. He also reported that this would supply the needs of a town of several thousand inhabitants. The plan was not carried out, the cost being considered prohibitive by the town fathers, and for some further time the cisterns were filled with water hauled from the river.

Some Great Fires.

Probably the most spectacular of our early fires, because of the amount of property damage and the territory covered, was the one which destroyed Scott's Row. This extended north and east from the corner of Third and Wabash as far as the alley. The occupants or owners of the properties were John Routledge, who owned the north end of the corner lot; and Diehl's Coffee Shop on the corner, which had once been McQuilkin's Tavern; Ezra W. Smith's liquor house; W. D. Griswold's, Henry Stakeman's; W. B. Tuell's Dry Goods and John Markle's Auction House. The newspaper account of the fire states that "the new Union Row was saved because of its brick construction." This Union Row extended east on Wabash to Fourth street, and the third room from the alley was the store of John Ludowici and Francis Hulman who probably watched the fire with some misgivings.

A few years later the west half of the block between Fourth and Fifth and Wabash and Ohio, which is the space now occupied by Smith's Department Store, was destroyed by another spectacular fire with a corresponding loss of property.

Probably the last of the great fires of that era was Britain M. Harrison's Soap and Candle Factory, which stood on the hill at the intersection of North Second street and the Alton Railroad. The contents of this building, fats and oils, made it an extremely hard fire to fight, but the loss was held very closely to the contents and the building itself, although the fire-fighting force no doubt contained every citizen of the town who was not bed-ridden or in jail.

There are many accounts of these old fire-fighters who were, in many cases, well-to-do citizens of the highest standing of the community and who enjoyed hugely the competition between companies as well as the excitement of the fires. These included Robert S. Cox, W. R. McKeen, Demas Deming, S. H. Potter, Simeon Corey, George W. Bement, John Crawford, Henry Fairbanks, James Tillotson, Zenas Smith and Thomas Houghton.

When Terre Haute Was Young Everyone Fought the Fire Demon

By A. R. Markle.

ONE OF the enjoyments of the school boy seventy-five years ago was his uproarious enjoyment of what we called "rounds." Among these the most popular started with the above line and was followed by "call the firemen . . . each one tell . . . fire-fire-fire." These four parts were sung in rotation, each of the voices starting their line one line behind each in succession so that all four lines are sung in different voices at the same time. Number one starting alone, number two starting as number one started his second line, and number three starting with the leader's third line, and number four with the leader's last line.

Then constant repetition at the top of the voices in what seemed to be endless confusion, and when you had thirty pupils in the room one easily felt that the floor and ceiling might hold, but one risked the loss of the walls and the roof. The closing followed the signal from the teacher, and each voice completed its line, fading out at last until the fourth voice finished alone just as the first voice had started alone.

The Shout of Fire.

There was in the early days and still exists in these modern days, something about the shout of FIRE that day or night commands immediate attention. Particularly is this true in the dead of night when it is usually sufficient to bring one out of bed and to the window with a power greater than mere curiosity.

In these high speed days the wail of the siren replaces the old fire bell, and we seldom more than listen to know if it has passed us by. We feel more secure now. There is no necessity for our help, for we have paid employees who lift the burden from our dread. Unless the fire is in our immediate vicinity we think no more of it, except to note the morning headlines with a slight curiosity.

In Days of Old.

In the pioneer days we felt a certain responsibility for our neighbors, and all of us co-operated in the saving of our neighbor's property. The word had greater meaning than it does now, when even the people next door are seldom more than nodding acquaintances. When a man lived alone, with no immediate neighbors, he could do little to stay the ravages of fire, and must stand by almost helpless to save anything . . . even life itself. But with the increase of settlement there came neighbors in the best sense of the word. Intimate friends or near-by acquaintances, and there was a sense of security in the knowledge that welcome help was near at hand and was freely given.

Organized Efforts.

There was a constant and ever ready effort on the part of the small community to join for mutual assistance. There were log rollings, raising bees, sewing circles, school societies, song fests, and other social affairs which knit the community together. But there was one need which was worse than the fear of savages, and that was fire. Very early there were organized efforts to fight fire, not only for saving the victim's property, but failing that, their own property was endangered. Here in Terre Haute at a very early day, an alarm would be sounded by beating on a piece of steel with a hammer, which summoned everybody, and this custom is still common in our eastern towns to this day.

In time these needs called for associations who were ever ready to serve. These became known as the Volunteer Fire Department. Of course, nobody paid for their services, but in the east it is still customary once or twice a year to hold carnivals or fairs where a wonderful lot of money accumulates for the purpose of buying equipment, uniforms, and possibly a case of beer now and then.

Coming Close to Home.

When the town of Terre Haute was incorporated in 1838, it took over some early apparatus which was already in existence. Among these the old leather fire buckets, which every householder was required to have and keep full of water. Few, if any, metal buckets were in use, and the common wooden pail with its metal hoops was apt to dry out and fall to pieces just when it was needed. But the town almost immediately procured a pumping engine which was operated by hand, sometimes by as many as sixteen men. This was fed in many instances by water from nearby cisterns and wells, passed from one to another in a long row of people known as "the bucket brigade."

When the town was confined rather closely to the original town west of Fifth from Swan to Eagle, water could be brought from the river quickly, and on the alarm of fire, all the draymen with their one-horse two-wheel carts, started for the river with a barrel or two, which they filled and returned to the scene of the fire. Not only were they anxious to co-operate in the activities of saving property, but there was an incentive. The town council paid two dollars and fifty cents for the first barrel, one dollar and fifty cents for the second, and possibly fifty cents for the others. This water was put into the box of the fire engine and the gang operating the brakes were able to throw water through a leather hose more than one hundred feet.

The Hook and Ladder.

In addition to leather buckets, certain citizens were fitted out with a short ladder, a grappling hook with a chain, and a long pike pole with which they could pull down the building and stop the spread of the fire. In later years some of this equipment was carried on the wagon whence, the term "hook and ladder crew."

Even in these modern days dynamite is often used to demolish buildings and prevent the spread of fire. In time, came the steam fire engines with the fuel already laid soaked in oil, which at the touch of a match was able to have steam pressure required by the time they reached the fire. These volunteer associations were really social affairs. Some of our best known citizens served in them, including druggists, grocers, manufacturers, bankers and even a few prominent educators. These men were paid special honor and in many cases were exempt from military service or the payment of taxes.

The Paid Fire Department.

In the late Seventies the city took over these organizations and men were paid from twenty dollars a month up to one thousand a year, and they were provided with housing at or near their station. In the early '70's came the water works with a constant pressure, and hydrants averaging about one to the block. The fire alarm system provided means for almost instant communication. At notice of a fire each engine house sounded the number of the box, and many commercial organizations published the location of these boxes. This started many morbid sightseers to make a nuisance of themselves rather than help at the scene of the fire.

A Few Mementos of the Past.

The old Number 1 Fire House at Third and Lafayette still stands, though no longer used for its purpose. This was the home of The Northern Liberties Fire Company. Another was the Number 2 Fire House at Fourth and Farrington, recently rebuilt. But the one which is still in use and greatly remodeled and extended is the fire alarm telegraph which was adopted in 1872. The first alarm being sounded on October 1, 1872. Stories of the old days of fire fighting and fire fighters will make other tales of the old days.

Terre Haute Bucket Brigade Did Valiant Work In Pioneer Settlement

By A. R. Markle.

WHILE every fire means a loss to the owner of the property and to some extent to the tenant, small fires were seldom reported in the newspapers. In fact, our earliest newspapers seldom contained any report unless a considerable loss or inconvenience affected the public. Newspapers of those days were not truly "news papers," for the people of the community had the news before the editor. They were more or less chronicles of events.

Our Earliest Printed Account.

From the Western Register and T. H. Advertiser we learn that "On the evening of the 5th John F. King's Distillery in the occupancy of Mark Williams and Mr. King was destroyed by fire." This was in February, 1825.

John F. King was one of our pioneers. A member of his family was the second wife of Curtis Gilbert. A local history reports that he built a house on the lot which is now the site of the First Congregational Church. At that time the rest of the lot as far as Sixth street was occupied by Terre Haute's first cemetery, and the history adds "from a window of this house he could look out on the grave of his first wife."

Later the body of this first wife was removed to Out lot Number three, the public burying ground where now stands the plant of The American Can Company. As the years went by the body was moved to Woodlawn Cemetery, and later moved again, this time to the family lot in Highland Lawn Cemetery.

Isreal, the brother of Mark Williams, married the sister of Chauncey Rose.

After the fire, Mr. King built a linseed oil mill on the same lot and operated it for many years. This was sold about 1840 and was destroyed many years later in the Fourth street fire.

Scott's Row Fire.

At about eight o'clock on the morning of December 2, 1850, fire broke out in Diehl's Coffee House and spread east to the alley between Third and Fourth on the north side of Wabash. The new Union Row east of the alley was saved by its iron shutters and brick construction, but all to Third and about half way to Cherry was burned.

The largest losers were W. D. Griswold, Ezra W. Smith and John Routledge, who estimated their losses at from ten to twelve thousand dollars, considerable money then.

Totally destroyed also was McQuilkin's Coffee House, the dry goods stores of Tuell, Bosworth, and Marshall (and the latter's ware-

house), The Universalist Printing House, and John Dowling's old frame house in which he had published the Wabash Courier for years.

The new building that was erected on these ruins on Wabash was named "Phoenix Row" because it has risen from the ashes of the other.

Three years later, on May 10, 1853, the soap and candle factory of B. M. Harrison caught fire. The grease and oil caused destruction so great that it was declared a total loss. It was located on the hill south of the present Water Works between Water and First street, and four years later Charley Nehf was born in the house erected on this location.

1854 Fires.

At about two o'clock in the morning of April 14, 1854, fire broke out in a long frame building at Fourth and Main which had been used as barracks for the Mexican War soldiers. It burned east through A. C. Furrow's and Joyce's Grocery stores, Hedden's Shoe Store, Houriet's Jewelry Store, Hennock's Clothing, J. B. Furrow's Grocery and the establishment of John C. Ross on the alley.

South from Wabash to Ohio it took the frame buildings of Coate's Paint Shop, another shoe store, the office of Dr. Fahnestock, Patrick and Brown's Paint Shop, Ball and Lockwood's Tin Shop, Jesse Mitchell's Barber Shop, Henry Fairbank's Rifle Shop, the Vigo Scales, Grace's Marble Works, Dodson's Grocery, Neumeister's Confectionery, Dimmick's Cabinet Shop and Chadwick and Westfall's Livery Stable.

A month later fire started in the N. P. Tallmage Livery Stable on Mulberry, destroying the stages and the horses of the Western Stage Company, Archer's Carriage Shop, the Prairie City Hotel, Burton's Hotel and stables, and the wagon shop of the Western Stage Company located on Fourth.

On October 4th, at about two o'clock in the morning, Mahan's Store next to the Southern Bank at the southwest corner of Fourth and Wabash was found on fire.

When it was extinguished it was discovered that the safe was open and from three to five hundred dollars was missing.

Other Fires.

On April 26, 1856, the Poor House was destroyed completely, but luckily without loss of lives. The Commissioners then bought the property on East Maple Avenue and erected the present building. The old location was opposite Woodrow Wilson Junior High School on Poplar street, and following the fire it

was bought by Judge Deming. A short time later Chauncey Rose met Judge Deming and asked him to contribute toward the Rose Polytechnic. The Judge's reply was, "Why, Chauncey, that's your school; you go ahead and build it. You have more money than I have." The story was told by the late Harry Gilbert who was riding with Mr. Rose and heard the conversation.

On the present site of the Filbeck Hotel was Johnny Burton's Old Pavilion and Hotel. It was destroyed on August 16, 1856, and for some twenty years previous had been the principal stage office and hotel.

Then two months later, on October 15, the Prairie House, which was on the grounds of the Terre Haute House, had a fire in the north "Ell" with a loss of about ten thousand dollars.

On Christmas Day, 1858, Curtis Gilbert had a fire at his home east of the city that was reported to have been caused by fire crackers, but he denied this as the cause.

A fire that started in a small frame building on Ohio street October 8, 1864, destroyed the Town Hall, but the records were saved.

In this period of thirty-five years we progressed from the primitive "bucket brigade" to an organized fire department, from which has grown our fully equipped metropolitan fire department.

REFERENCE.
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

First Volunteer Fire Department Here Was Founded About 1838

By A. R. Markle.

In the early 1830's there were several loosely formed volunteer fire companies with or without any authority to govern them.

But with the incorporation of the town of Terre Haute in 1838, the town council made provision for the care and operation of the equipment.

The need for further equipment is shown by the Town Council authorizing the town marshal to have the fire engine painted and repaired. We have very little information on this particular engine, but in June Jacob D. Early was instructed to build a house for this engine.

In July Mr. Early reported he had paid \$88.32 on a new engine from Philadelphia, and for this engine the council allowed \$496.23, balance to be paid to Mellick and Agnew. John Boudinot was paid \$269.00 for building the engine house. This house probably occupied what is now the alley to the west side of Fourth between Ohio and Walnut.

In September the council allowed \$15 for benches and desk for the fire house.

In October the board appointed John Crawford fire warden for the first ward, Zenas Smith for the second ward, Thomas Houghton for the third ward, John S. Burget for the fourth ward and Thomas C. Clayton for the fifth ward. In December Alexander McGregor was appointed fire warden for the fourth ward.

All these men considered it an honor to hold their offices and served without pay.

Hoosier Engine Company.

In January 1839 the Hoosier Engine Company was occupying the fire house. This is the first of organized volunteer fire department. The size of this company is noted by the fact that Henry Fairbanks was allowed \$9.92 for making 32 keys for the engine house.

These engines were man operated pumps mounted on wheels and drawn by ropes and the men of the company assisted by everybody else who was going to the fire; which included all the boys in the town big enough to "run with a machine."

Mounted on the carriage were long bars on each side by which six or eight men on each side could operate the pump which drew water from a tank on the wagon.

On the occasion of a fire everybody was expected to keep this tank filled by carrying water from nearby wells, but for this purpose the council had authorized the payment of \$3.00 for the first hogshead of water, \$2.00 for the second hogshead and \$1.00 for the third and 25 cents for each additional hogshead. This water was hauled from the river on two-wheel drays. Each drayman on the alarm of fire loaded his hogshead on his dray and raced down to the river where he and what help was offered filled it and raced back to the fire.

So strong was the rivalry that there was always plenty of water even at 25 cents a hogshead. The drivers of the first three drays probably felt rich enough and stayed to see the fire.

Allowing about one-third discount for the water lost in the mad race which was usually sufficient to create a bucket brigade to keep the empty tanks full.

More Apparatus.

The engine carried a short supply of two inch leather hose with a nozzle, but in June a committee reported on a purchase of a hose carriage, this being the first mention of any other apparatus.

At the December meeting a resolution to supply the fire house with four poles with hooks, chains and ropes and four ladders was passed, the ladders to be so constructed as to splice for three-story buildings and two-story buildings and the spliced ends to serve for one-story buildings.

By that time the town had a pumping engine, a fire house, a hose carriage, and hose ready for use at any time.

There was great rivalry when later companies were organized and each company tried hard to be the first at the fire. Many fights occurred at these occasions, and it is said that some of these companies were so anxious to win this honor that they arrived before the fire which followed soon after.

However that may be, action really started before the arrival of the fire engine and its water. In the case of a small building a grappling hook on a chain was thrown over the house, and with a great deal of heaving and hauling by volunteer workers the whole structure would soon be torn down. If necessary a man would go up on a ladder, chop a hole in the roof and fix the hook firmly in place and the building was soon leveled.

If the roof was already gone, and that sometimes happened, the man would use the poles to push the walls in thus confining the fire to one spot.

Early in 1840 the need for more more certain water supply resulted in an appropriation of \$100 to build a cistern in the First ward and in each of the other wards fifty dollars was allowed for a cistern. These cisterns, which at one time numbered more than a dozen, were built of heavy oak planks made water tight by calking with oakum. They were approximately ten feet square and eight feet deep and being water tight they were kept filled with water hauled from the river. But in case of the one located at the northwest corner of the public square a conductor of wooden pump logs carried rain water from the old Farrington block now known as the Shandy building.

Whether there was any means of keeping other cisterns full is not known. In the laying of the street car tracks as they rounded this corner one of these cisterns was uncovered.

In February, 1840, an organization a company of "fire guards" which asked for authority from the council was granted.

Demas Deming was elected captain. This was Judge Deming, father of Demas who lived until our time, and who died in 1922. The old judge was one of the founders of the First National Bank, and in time was succeeded by his son.

Captain James Wasson, first assistant to the captain, had been landlord of the Eagle and Lion tavern.

Thomas Holdsworth Blake was elected second assistant. Mr. Blake was the first president judge at the organization of the Vigo County Court, but he did not appear until the second session of the court. He died in Cincinnati in 1849 on his return home from Washington, D. C.

Joseph Cooper was the third assistant. He was one of the founders of the First Baptist Church.

Last and by no means least was the fourth assistant, a gentleman who gained fame and fortune here by the name of Chauncey Rose. If you have seen his portrait you will be surprised at the thought of our public benefactor ever pulling the engine to a fire.

The hook and ladder company was formed with these men: O. L. Van Tassel, Dixon Porterfield, William Ramage, John O'Brien, James Hook, Mahlon Newman, Zenas Smith, A. L. Chamberlain, T. A. Madison, John Crawford, Fleming Megaw, P. H. Hardy, Rufus Miner, John Warner, S. K. Dille, Z. B. Hovey, Thomas Parsons, William McFadden and J. O. Jones.

Of these men, James Hook had much to do with the building of Terre Haute. He built the original school on Seminary lot at Fourth and Mulberry which in 1878 he demolished for the erection of the school named in his honor which was in turn demolished in the last few years. One hundred years ago he operated a linseed oil mill on Third, now the site occupied by the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company.

John Crawford, with his brother Samuel, once owned the east half of the block which faces on Seventh street between Cherry and Wabash.

J. O. Jones was an early postmaster. He lived in a house on the site of the present Hunter Laundry.

Zenas Smith was a building contractor here who lived at the corner of Fourth and Poplar.

A. L. Chamberlain was a prominent contractor who did a great deal of work for Chauncey Rose. The Pennsylvania freight house is an example of his work. Built in 1853 it was the Union Station of the Terre Haute and Richmond, the Terre Haute and Alton, and the Evansville, Terre Haute, and Crawfordsville Road, the latter two of which will celebrate their centennial here next year.

About this time a new company was formed headed by Samuel Crawford. This man was the first treasurer of the town of Terre Haute, and had been treasurer of the original organization known as the Terre Haute Borough.

Another member of this company was Stephen Stratton, who operated the first foundry in Terre Haute where now stands The Hazeldine Machine Shops.

Another was Thomas Dowling, who traded the Wabash Courier for the house built for David S. Donaldson and this house is now the Rose Home for Aged Women.

Still another was Dr. Richard Blake, founder of most of the Blake family here and one of our early physicians. Dr. Blake's wife was a sister of Charles Groverman, another member of the company.

Another of these early firemen was Richard R. Hebb whose son George Hebb was for many years printer and publisher here.

A little later the council received a petition to hold an election calling for the incorporation of the city. The election was held April 30, 1853, and the result provided a successor for the Town of Terre Haute.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

When Bucket Brigade Put Out Our City's Fires

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

An 86-year-old copy of the Terre Haute Express Weekly gives an excellent account of our city's fire department up to the year 1873, from the days of the bucket brigade, the "names of the boys who run with the machine, and a list of the important fires that have been in the city."

"Like all young villages, Terre Haute was at first, and for many years, poorly supplied with means of protection against fire. The first resort, hand buckets, was for a long time the only recourse. Every house was supplied with two rubber buckets, and on the alarm of fire every citizen

was expected to pick up his buckets and rush to the fire. It was astonishing with what



Dorothy J. Clark

celerity, at times water was brought to bear upon the flames. Often a double line of men would be formed from the river as far back as Third street, one line rapidly passing up buckets

filled with water, and the other line as rapidly passing down empty ones to be filled. "For a long time scarcely any water could be had except at the river. Besides the system of buckets, water was hauled to fires in hogsheads on drays. The first drayman who brought his load to a fire received five dollars. Then after a while, two public fire cisterns were built, one in the northeast corner of the public square and the other in the southwest corner. They were built of plank, the cracks cemented, and without a brick in either of them. These, of course, did not last long. There are now (1875) large wellbuilt and substantial cisterns all over town.

First Fire Engine.

"About the year 1836 an innovation in the shape of a fire engine appeared. It was the "Hoosier," one of the old-fashioned hand engines manned, when at work, by 30 or 40 men. "Firewarden" had charge of the volunteer departments. In 1838 the following wardens were in office: First Ward, John Crawford; Second, Zenas Smith; Third, Thomas Houghton; Fourth, Alexander McGregor; Fifth, Thomas C. Clayton.

"The second engine was the "Vigo" a small one run by two men, bought in 1852. The "Mohawk" was purchased soon afterward. The "Northern Liberty" was bought about the year 1858, the "Vigo No. 2" in 1859, and the "Niagara" in 1860. These were all hand engines, and became insufficient for the wants of the growing city. None of them are now (1873) in the city. The "Hoosier"

was torn up, the "Vigo" went to Effingham, the "Northern Liberty" to Crawfordsville and the "Niagara" to Paris. There was a small hook and ladder truck in use for several years purchased about the year 1840. No one seems to know what ever became of it.

"The present (1873) engine house No. 1 was built about the year 1849; No. 2 in 1852, and the present hook and ladder house, then the "Niagara" in 1852.

"All were volunteer organizations until about the year 1856, when the first regularly organized fire department was formed. The following is the list of chiefs of the department as copied from a silver trumpet belonging to the city, in the possession of Mr. Van Brunt: 1856, T. C. Buntin; 1857, R. S. Cox; 1859, J. C. Yates; 1861, John D. Bell; 1863, J. A. Bryan; 1865, B. F. Dengler; 1866, J. A. Bryan (January to May); 1866, John D. Bell; (April to May) W. L. Wright; 1871, William Van Brunt.

Steam Engine Appears.

"The first steam fire engine was purchased in the year 1867. It was the present engine No. 1, "Albert Lange." It cost \$3,500. "Vigo No. 1" was bought in the fall of the same year, and cost \$4,250. Both were manufactured by William Jeffers, of Pawtucket, R. I. These engines are first-rate piston machines, can raise steam in three or four minutes, and can throw water nearly, if not quite, two hundred feet high. They have several times forced water to fires through 2,000 feet of hose.

"The present hook and ladder was bought in 1869. It cost about \$1,500. It is provided with 6 ladders of different sizes, 12 rubber buckets, 2 hooks, with ropes, 4 axes, a crowbar, pikes, etc. It was formerly drawn by but one horse, but another horse was added about a month ago. There are eight horses belonging to the department altogether. There are about 3,000 feet of hose, 2,000 of which is new and first-class. The city council has ordered 1,800 feet additional and 2 more reels.

Fire Alarm System.

"There is an alarm bell on each of the three houses, be-

sides one at the furniture factory on South Second street. An addition to the Ninth street house has just been completed (1873), for the reception of a horse and reel. A great addition to the facilities of the fire department is the fire alarm telegraph, which was established more than a year ago (1872), at an original cost of \$3,500. Four new boxes are now being put up. Each box cost \$250 each, contains very intricate works, and is set in operation by simply pulling down a hook on the inside. There will be, when the present ordered improvements are completed, over nine miles of wire, ten alarm boxes, an alarm in the house of the chief, a small striking apparatus in each engine house, and communication with the water works. A striking apparatus was attached to the bell of the Congregational Church, as an experiment, but it seems to be of little use, and will probably be taken away. The signal keys in the engine houses are not reliable as have been demonstrated several times. They do not always strike just the right signals, though operated in the proper manner. But the boxes work in a perfectly satisfactory manner, and show instantly in what neighborhood a fire is located.

Water Works System.

"But the greatest protection against fires Terre Haute has yet had is the system of water works established during the present year. A description is needless, as everyone is well acquainted with the works. They were built by Clapp & Jones of Hudson, New York. The city paid \$50,000 toward their construction. They have already demonstrated their complete success, at least for the present. Some persons doubt their perfection fearing that the pipes may burst in the future, or that when the city increases, and more water is used, and the pipes are extended, that the pipes will prove inadequate.

"The following is the list of the members of the Terre Haute Fire Department (1873): No. 1, Engineer, Stephen Mahoney; Fireman, Wm. Van Brunt Jr.,

Engine-driver, Daniel Hogan; Reel-driver, Arthur McMahan; regular hosemen, John Kennedy and Joseph Schell; extra hosemen, Patrick King and Walter Green. No. 2, Engineer, Isaac McManime; Firemen, Robert Woodall; Engine-driver, Elias George; Hose driver, Chas. Smith; regular hosemen, Dennis Hullivan and James Tully; extra hosemen, John Shumire and W. B. George. Hook & Ladder, Wagon-driver, Henry Stakeman; Steersman, Herman Ramme; extra men, Chas. Lustig, George Yost and Phillip Shrader.

"The following are the salaries which the members receive: engineers, per month, \$85; firemen, \$50; engine drivers, \$50; reel drivers, \$50; regular hosemen, \$10; ladder wagon driver, \$50; steersman, \$20. The regular hosemen receive \$2.50 for a day fire, \$3 for a night fire, and half price for a false alarm."

Next week I'll continue this account of our city's fire department history up to the year 1873 and tell of some of the important fires which have occurred here.

DO NOT CIRCULATE
Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library

The origin of the Otter Creek Twp. Volunteer Fire Dept.

By JUDY STEDMAN CALVERT

The Otter Creek Volunteer Fire Department has three stations—North Terre Haute, Sandcut, and Burnett. The

department is a member of the Indiana Volunteer Firemen's Association which has 18,000 members throughout the state. Eighty-five percent of the state is protected by volunteer firemen. The Otter

Creek department covers approximately 4,000 homes, 2 schools, 7 churches, 4 major industries, and numerous small businesses.

The communication center for the township is housed at the North Terre Haute station and is remotely controlled by the guard at Anaconda Aluminum. All fire and rescue calls go through the center and the appropriate station is dispatched. In cases of structure fires, all three township units respond to provide the necessary manpower and water supply.

The fire department was organized 39 years ago following a devastating fire in North Terre Haute. The tragedy struck on January 6, 1943, when fire destroyed the J.A. Crabb general store and drugstore, the Mary Rose Flanagan Beauty Shop, and the John Markin grocery store on Park Avenue.

The fire started when a can of kerosene exploded as James Tindall, 84 years old, tried to light a fire in his living quarters above the beauty shop. Tindall died of injuries suffered in the explosion and his son, Fred Tindall, received serious injuries while attempting to rescue his father. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Henry, who also lived above the beauty shop, escaped uninjured.

The second story of Crabbs store

housed the meeting hall of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, the Daughters of America Lodge, the Junior Order of Mechanics, and the Pythian Sisters of North Terre Haute. All of their furnishings and records were destroyed.

Fanned by stiff winds, the fire spread across Park Ave. to a building occupied by Theo Haase, the township trustee, and his family. Haase's barber shop and the trustee's office were in the front of the building and the family living quarters in the rear. Township records and most furnishings from the building were saved, but the front of the building was severely damaged.

The North Terre Haute Post Office, then on the south side of Park Ave. with a vacant lot between it and Crabb's store, was saved when firemen sprayed the building and other buildings and homes in the vicinity with water. The home of Mrs. Evelyn Kelley, east of Markin's store, was damaged slightly, but was saved by the firemen.

The Terre Haute fire department was called since North Terre Haute had no fire department at that time. The firemen had to drive their pumper trucks to the deepest part of Otter Creek, west of Elm Grove swimming pool, for a source of water to fight the fire. Hoses were run for 3800 feet across Highway 41 and down Park Ave. to the blaze and traffic was at a standstill on the main north and south route for hours. After the fire was extinguished wreckers had to pull the pumper trucks out of the mud in Otter Creek.

Because of the serious fire which could have easily destroyed most of North Terre Haute, the citizens soon organized and

(Continued on Page 5)

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

NTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

(Continued from Page 1)

formed the first volunteer fire department in Otter Creek Township.

The week following the fire, a meeting was called by a Mr. Boyles to organize the group. A week later, Charles Duffin, Jr. was elected president and C. Weir Kirk was elected vice-president of the Otter Creek Firemen's Association. In the meantime, Theo Haase contacted the Terre Haute fire department and the Civil Defense to arrange for classes for the group. Eight men and one woman completed the first training course. They were Theo Haase, Robert Osborne, Max Johnson, Walter Reiz, Henry Bergham, William Deal, William Johnson, C. Weir Kirk, and Margaret Haase, one of the first women in the United States to be a "firewoman".

The first fire chief elected was Walter Reiz. Others who have served as Fire Chief at the North Terre Haute station are: Bert Templeton, William Deal, Henry Bergham, William Johnson, C. Weir Kirk, Jon Marvel, Bud Remington, Gene Williams, Rich Byers, Dale Evans, Dennis Sharp, and Bob Meyers.

The first equipment owned by the volunteer fire department was a Chevrolet truck found in a junk yard and a discarded oil tank. Local garagemen Hart, Con, Englehart, Johnson, and Bergham built a fire wagon from the truck and tank. Local businesses donated money (\$410.00) to pay for this first truck.

The new fire department was given land for a firehouse on the south side of Park Ave. by the Knights of Pythias Lodge which had been burned out in the fire of 1943. Trustee Haase gave the group a school house building which had been near Burnett to house the equipment. The building was moved to the site on Park Ave. and the group was in business. Later members of the organization voted to give the land and equipment to the township for ownership. The township still owns this land and now leases it to the North Terre Haute Christian Church.

The present firehouse on the north side of Park Ave. was built in 1967 on land donated to the fire department by Dr. Don Gerrish. The organization owns the land and the building and leases it to the township for \$1.00 per year. The township owns the firefighting equipment and pays the utilities at the firehouse.

Equipment housed at the North Terre Haute station includes a pumper truck capable of pumping 500 gals. of water a

minute with a capacity of 750 gals., a tanker truck which carries 1000 gals. of water, and the rescue truck which is equipped with a rescusitator, an inhaler, a portable lighting system, an elaborate first aid kit, and the "jaws of life" equipment. The rescue truck is not an ambulance and cannot transport victims, but is equipped so the men can treat injured persons and prepare them for transport when an ambulance arrives. A new pumper truck which will pump 1000 gals. of water per minute and carry 1000 gals. of water is on order and expected to be delivered in late November. This new truck will also have a foam attachment.

Training of the volunteer fire department is provided at fire schools conducted by the State Fire Marshall's office in conjunction with the Indiana Volunteer Firemen's Association at Pfizer's each year. In addition, training films are available from Civil Defense and the State Fire Marshall's office and the firemen have practice training sessions within their own departments.

Five men in the North Terre Haute Volunteer Fire Department have EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) training and fifteen others have CPR and Red Cross Multimedia Standard First Aid Certification. The five EMT's are: Mark Romanyk, Rodney Hayes, Dick Williams, Chuck Jones, and John Meyers. These twenty men are qualified to take the rescue truck on emergency runs.

There are 24 active members presently on the North Terre Haute roster. The group has a good safety record for its 39 years of service with no serious injuries. The firemen average about two runs a week over a year's time.

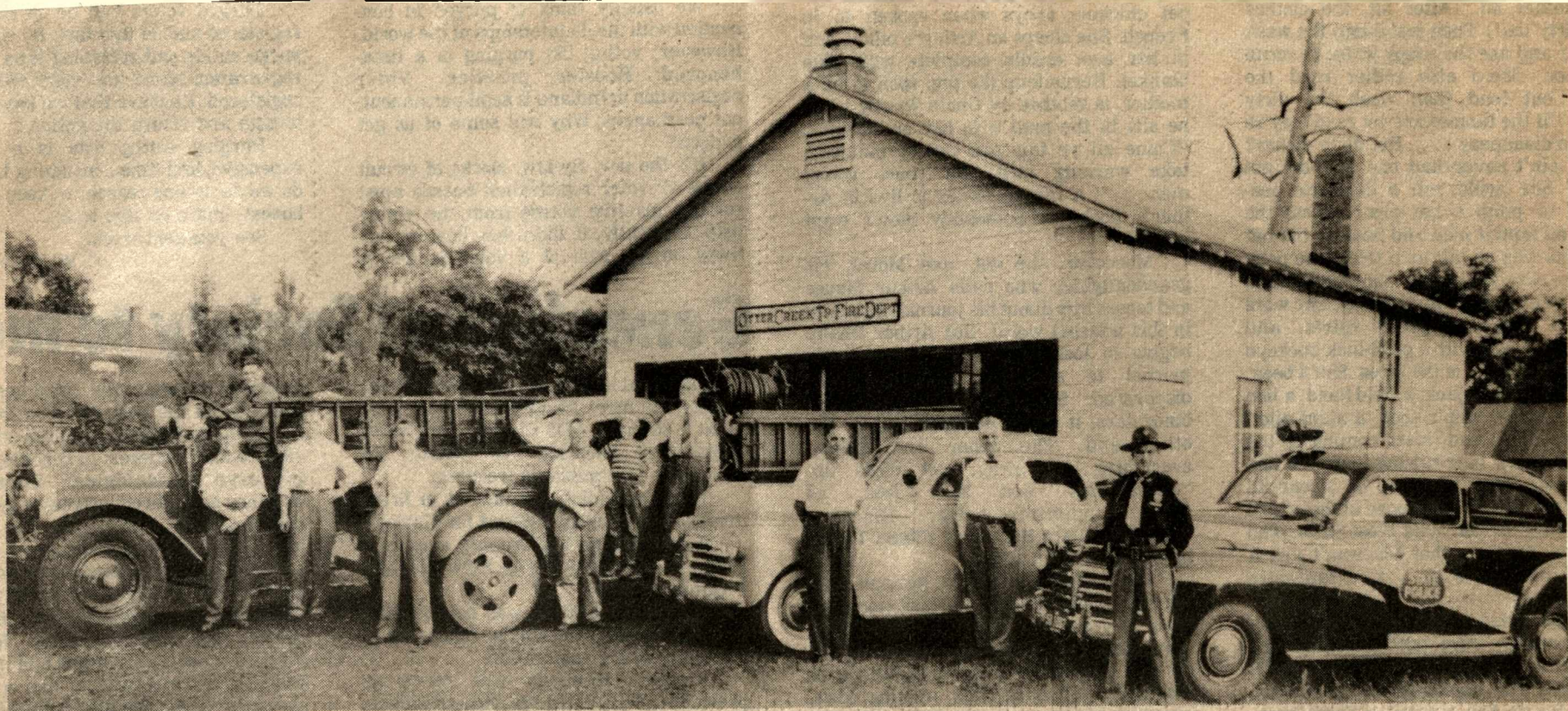
Each November the organization has a chicken fry and each May they have a fish fry as fundraising projects. Funds are used to help maintain the firehouse, purchase small items for the rescue truck, and to furnish the kitchen. Presently the men are building an addition on to the firehouse to house the new truck expected later this year.

In 1962, the Ladies Auxiliary of the

North Terre Haute Volunteer Fire Department was organized. Minnie Stableton, Mary Ellen Osborne, Rose Mary Maffioli, and Peral Houpt used to get together frequently at Stableton's grocery and they decided to try to form a group of ladies to help the firemen. The organization was very informal at first and met once a week for a carry in lunch at the firehouse. They had small fundraising projects, made curtains, and furnished small items for the kitchen. In the beginning the group had about 15 members; but by the second year, membership had grown to about 40 members. Pearl Houpt was elected the first president.

Now the Ladies Auxiliary meets once a month. They help the men at the fish fry and chicken dinner, sell pastries at the dinners, and sell homemade peanut brittle during the Christmas holidays. The ladies have partially furnished the kitchen in the new firehouse and make donations to the men's treasury when funds are needed for a firehouse project. Present officers of the Ladies Auxiliary are: Charla Jones, president; Janet Meyers, vice-president; Norma Conder, secretary; and Iva Cress, treasurer.

NEXT WEEK: The Sandcut Volunteer Fire Department.



OTTER CREEK TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPT.—1948—The first firehouse on the south side of Park Ave. Left to right: Ralph Baxter, Ed Stableton, Henry

Bergham, Bill Trout, Dan Lenhart, Larry Schommer, Theo Haase, Sheriff Ira Hall, Ralph Smith and Don Jackson. (Pat Calvert Photo)

Fire Protection (T-4) Community Affairs File

Burnett Volunteer Fire Dept.

Northsideburna 07-6-82

By JUDY STEDMAN CALVERT

This concludes a three-part series on the Otter Creek Volunteer Fire Department. Many people talked with me about the early years of the fire department and the present status of the three stations. My thanks for their help to: Bob and Janet Meyers, Pearl Houpt, Minnie Stableton, Gary Haase, John Sturm, Ethel Hultz, Audrey Leslie, Drusilla Haviland, Larry Schommer, John Hanna III and Betty, John Hanna IV, Alex Kosarko, Sr. and Helan, and Larry Poole.

Station No. 3 of the Otter Creek Volunteer Fire Department, the Burnett Volunteer Fire Department, was organized in 1959. The department is housed in the Burnett Community Center, which is built on land donated by Margaret Schepler. Under the terms of the agreement, if the land is no longer used as a community center, the land will revert to the Schepler family.

The building was completed in 1960 and has a meeting area, kitchen facilities, and two bay areas for the fire trucks. A playground for the children of the community is adjacent to the building. Custodians of the playground are Chief Carson, John Hanna III, and Gary Haase.

The center may be used by members of the community for private parties such as wedding and baby showers, family dinners, etc. Groups using the facility for profit-making projects are asked to make a donation to the community center fire department treasury.

The community retains ownership of the building, which was built by donated labor and materials, and Otter Creek

Township owns the firefighting equipment and pays the utilities for the building.

The first fire chief at Burnett was Bill Shepherd. Others who have served are: Ted Branson, John Hanna III, Carson Haase, Frank Huffman, Delbert Darkis, Frank Davitto, Lloyd Anderson, Tom Kelly, and Larry Poole.

The Burnett station is equipped with a 1000 gal. and a 750 gal. pumper truck. In addition, the station has a rescusitator, air packs, oxygen, and a complete first aid kit. Chief Larry Poole is a respiratory therapist and John Hanna IV has taken EMT training, but has not yet taken the test for certification. All active members have participated in the training sessions of the State Fire Marshall's office and attend classes and practice sessions at regular intervals.

Members recently attended a class on fighting chemical and gas fires. Chief Poole feels that the number of trains traveling through Otter Creek Township carrying chemicals warrants this training. A derailment involving chemical and gas spills cannot be handled with firefighting equipment using the traditional water.

A truck equipped with a foam attachment for fighting chemical fires is on order and delivery is expected late this year. This truck will be housed at the North Terre Haute station.

Burnett does not have a separate ladies group, but several interested women attend the regular meetings of the fire department on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The ladies help with fundraising activities and several are now participating in the training and practice sessions of the fire department. The number of active firemen in Burnett who actually go on fire runs is small and Chief Poole feels that the ladies will be an asset to the department, particularly during the day when most men are at work.

Present officers of the Burnett Volunteer Fire Department are: Gary Haase, president; Bob Barnhart, vice-president; Tom Seybold, secretary; and John Gregory, treasurer. Larry Poole is the Fire Chief and John Hanna IV and Bob Barnhart are Assistant Chiefs.

All three stations of the Otter Creek

Volunteer Fire Department welcome new members. Dues are minimal. Membership rules vary slightly in each department; however, basically, all is needed is an interest in serving the community and a willingness to attend the meetings and training sessions. The only expense is the purchase of a blue light for personal vehicles for those who want them (they are not required) and the gasoline for personal vehicles used on fire runs. Individual gear is furnished by the departments.

These are not men playing boys' games. They are dedicated to their job and are providing an invaluable service to the township. Members are on 24-hour call and, in addition to being called out in the wee hours of the morning, often leave family gatherings and social events to respond to a fire, automobile accident, or a heart attack victim.

Persons interested in becoming a volunteer fireman are urged to contact the fire chief in their area. (Bob Meyers-North Terre Haute, John Sturm-Sandcut, or Larry Poole-Burnett). If you are not interested in being a fireman, please support their fundraising events. And, when you meet a volunteer fireman, say, "Thanks!"

DO NOT CIRCULATE

Department

Sandcut Volunteer Fire

Fire Protection (1.4) Community Affairs File

Northside Journal *7-29-82*

The Otter Creek Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1943 following a tragic fire which claimed the life of James Tindall and destroyed three business buildings in North Terre Haute.

In March, 1949, a meeting was held in Sandcut to organize Station No. 2 of the township department. Weir Kirk, who was also instrumental in organizing the NTH station, conducted the meeting. Max Johnson was elected the Fire Chief.

Max served several terms as chief. He owned a garage in Sandcut and was always close by. Also, being a mechanic, he kept the trucks in good running order. He would start the engines several times a week to keep the motors in good condition.

Others who have served as Fire Chief at Sandcut are: Bill Frost, Hubert Biggs, and John Sturm. John joined the volunteer department in August, 1949 and now holds the most seniority for active service as a volunteer fireman in Otter Creek Township, having served continuously for 33 years.

Ralph Baxter, Trustee at the time, gave the department a school building from near Burnett to house the equipment. Prior to the acquisition of the schoolhouse, meetings were held in a shed near the present site. Martha Frazer sold the land on which the firehouse is located.

The men moved the building to Sandcut in one piece pulling it on rollers with tractors. The job took a week to accomplish. Trees had to be removed to get the building from its original site, limbs were trimmed along the route, and mailboxes had to be taken out and replaced most of the way.

Alex Kosarko, Sr. has movies of the schoolhouse being moved and set on the site where it still stands today. Men identified from the movies as workers on the job are: Gene Bullerdick, Herschell Cottrell, James Ferris, Hank Hatley, Morris Harris, Chester Huffman, Charlie Johnson, Max Johnson, Walter King, and Tom Leavitt. A Stultz is driving the tractor—Alex believes it is Webb Stultz. Small boys carrying water for the cement mixer are Billy Cox, Darrell Fischer, Don Hamilton, and David Stone.

The first truck at the Sandcut Volunteer Fire Department was a 1917 Seagraves with a chain drive, one-wheel mechanical brakes, solid rubber tires, and an open cab. The 33-year-old truck was

operational a couple of years before finally breaking down.

Present equipment at the Sandcut station includes a 1953 Army surplus pumper truck with a 400 gal. capacity and a 1979 Ford tanker with a 1280 gal. capacity. The tanker, which is bright yellow rather than the traditional firetruck red, was purchased new by the township in 1978. Fire Chief John Sturm says the yellow color was specified on the order for a safety factor. Red is difficult to see at dusk and persons who are color blind cannot see a red truck, but can distinguish yellow objects. School buses are traditionally yellow for these reasons.

The addition to the rear of the old schoolhouse was built by members of the Sandcut community. Labor was donated and fundraisers were held to pay for materials. After it was completed, the land and building were deeded back to the township, which also owns and maintains the fire equipment.

Present officers of the Sandcut Volunteer Fire Department are: John Sturm, Fire Chief; Gary Sturm, Assistant Fire Chief and President; Wayne Leslie, Secretary; and Charlie Myers, Treasurer.

In July, 1952, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Sandcut Volunteer Fire Department was organized under the leadership of Drusilla Biggs. Drusilla and Hubert Biggs owned the tavern in Sandcut at the time and lived directly across the road from the firehouse. When a fire call came in, Drusilla would run across the road to sound the alarm and, if the tavern was open, run down to the corner to take care of the business while Hubert was on the fire call.

The first officers of the Ladies Auxiliary were: Drusilla Biggs, President; Doris Bullerdick, Vice-president; Ethel Hultz, Secretary; Jennie Blake, Treasurer; and Jennie Johnson, Chaplain.

The Ladies Auxiliary held fundraisers to help furnish and maintain the firehouse and meeting hall. Chili suppers, white elephant sales, spaghetti dinners, bingo games, booths at the Fontanet Bean Dinner, and many other projects of the women's group and the men and women together helped provide the well-furnished, neat firehouse the community has today.

Over the years the Ladies Auxiliary

has also built a tradition of visiting shut-ins in the community, sending greeting cards, giving fruit baskets at Christmas, and helping friends and neighbors in times of sickness and need. The fire department also has two hospital beds available for loan to community members.

A Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration is planned by the Ladies Auxiliary for September. All past and present members of the fire department and the ladies auxiliary are invited to participate in the festivities. The ladies are also planning a bean dinner for Oct. 16.

Present officers of the Ladies Auxiliary are: Audrey Leslie, President; Drusilla Biggs Haviland, Vice-president; Ida Fulk, Secretary; Jane Sturm, Treasurer; and Rebecca Kline, Card Chairman.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Fire Protection (T. H.)

Community Affairs File

7-29-82 Northside Journal



1949—Some of the original organizers of the Sandcut Volunteer Fire Department—Left to right: Betty Cottrell, Clarice Smith, Elva Kersey, Drusilla Biggs, Jennie Bedell, Nova Fischer and Kenny, Ronnie Mitchell, Alex Kosarko, Jr., Joe Kosarko, Evelyn Funkhouser, Helen Kosarko,

Margaret King, Ethel Hultz.

Also, Mary Helen Kosarko, Linda Funkhouser, Hubert Biggs, Alex Kosarko, Sr., Walter King, Roy Hultz, Coy Funkhouser, Herbert Otte and grandchildren. (Sandcut Ladies Auxiliary Photo, Story on Page 4)

Fire-police museum enshrines history back to bucket brigade days

Weekend Messenger

11/14/82

Vigo county possesses few examples of both the new and the old. The old usually gives way to the new, and another piece of history is lost.

But some far-sighted individuals have preserved a piece of heritage at historical fire station No. 9 near Eighth and Idaho streets. Meanwhile, the present-day fire department maintains headquarters in sleek, modern buildings.

The Retired Policemen and Firemen Association resolved to convert station No. 9 into a police-fire department museum. The firemen had outgrown the outmoded building constructed in 1906. A museum seemed a perfect solution for preserving artifacts of Terre Haute history. The museum is the only one of its kind in the state. Tom Champion is curator.

The museum traces history all the way back to bucket brigades in mid-19th century.

In the beginning, the leather buckets and water hauled by the dray men was the mode of firefighting, and one town marshal kept the peace.

Then the fire fighters turned their combined energy to the hand pumps, Terre Haute had over 200 volunteers who rocked to and fro, chanting at the handles, united in the common resolve to beat the fire, and to display their prowess against the boasts of rival companies. They toiled and drank and fought each other and won the hearts of the townfolk.

But in time they bowed reluctantly to the gleaming, polished, smoke roaring

steamers, with their teams of horses, nostrils flared, hooves sparking the streets, their pathway cleared, as they careered past, by gongs and bells and the cries of thrilled alarm from curious citizens scattered in their wake.

These things once again come to life. You will see the past in fire equipment and police records and memoir. One of the early hose reels that was pulled down the sandy streets. Terre Haute's first motorized fire truck, a 1910 Oldsmobile. The only fire truck built in the fire dept. shops. Models of all the horse drawn fire and police wagons. Uniforms of the past. First fire alarm system, and street fire alarm box system. The firemen's bed room and the brass pole.

When the station was first constructed, it operated on a budget of \$10,937.53. In 1907, Fire Chief John Kennedy told the city council that the station had faulty construction.

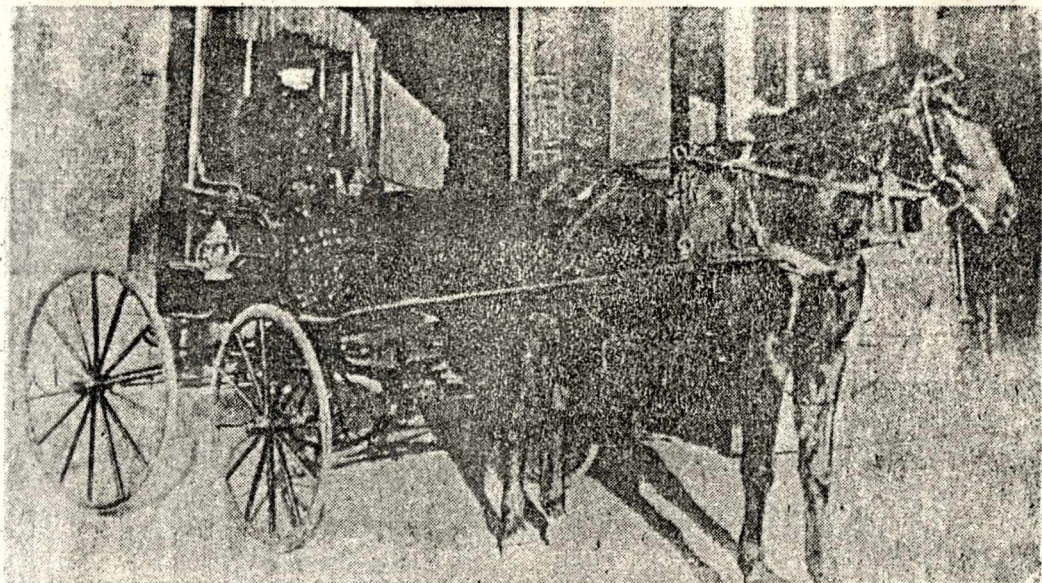
The first steam engine arrived in 1908, and a scant two years later, Terre Haute boasted of the first motorized fire truck. Cost of gasoline for the Oldsmobile fire engine for the entire year amounted to \$12.41.

Since that era, the yearly budget has mushroomed from \$84,700 for 10 fire stations to about \$2 million for eight stations today.

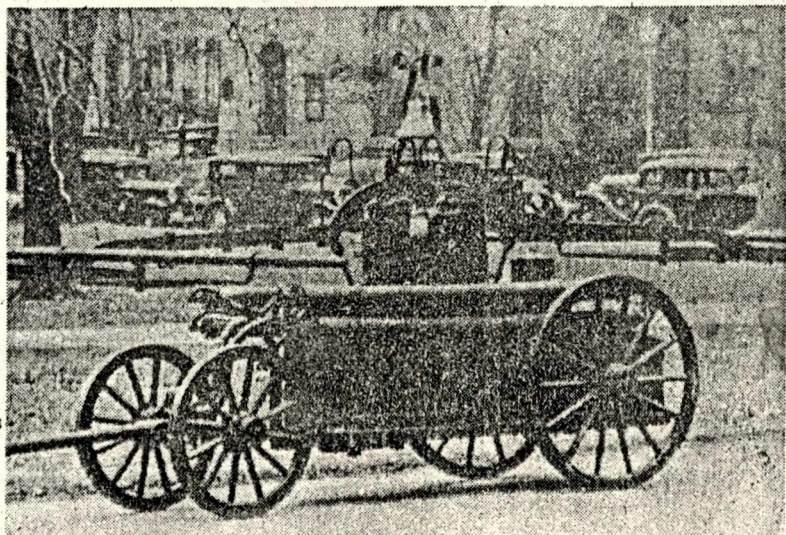
Although fine as a museum, the old station No. 9 had outlived its usefulness

for modern-day firefighting. Two twin stations were built in 1979 and 1980 at 13th and Fort Harrison as well as Highway 63 and Margaret avenue. Each one cost about half a million dollars, provided through mostly federal funds:

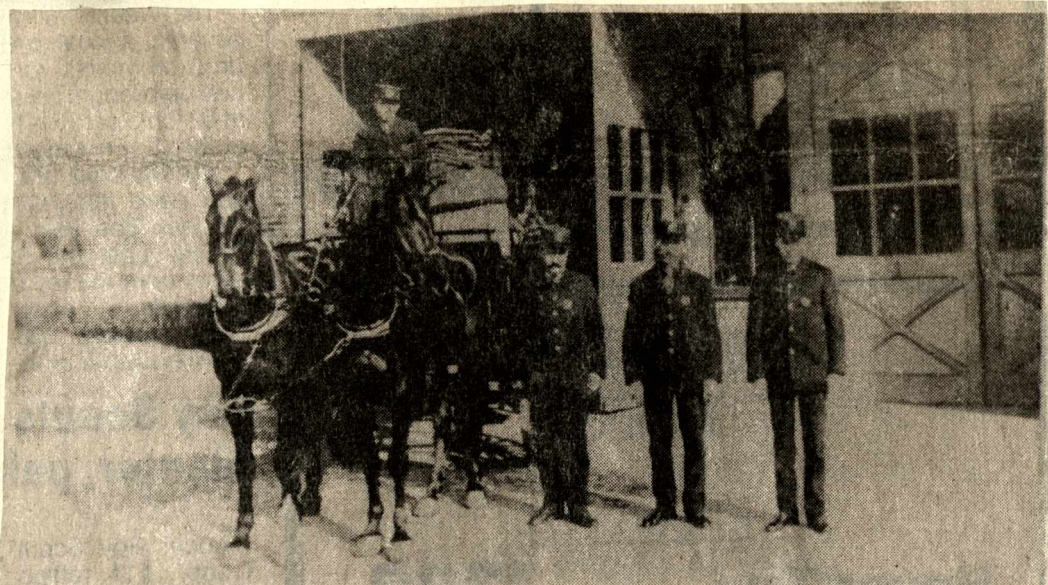
Groundbreaking took place in March 1979 at the north station, which was dedicated in December 1979. The station accommodates two companies of firefighters and eight vehicles.



Chief John Kennedy was the only chief to serve in that office four times.
Community Affairs File



Terre Haute's first hand-pumper went into service in 1855 at a cost of \$740. Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C., has it on display.



Fire station no. 9 at Eighth and Idaho as it appeared in the horse and buggy era of 1908. It now serves as a museum.



The old and the new



Historical film will be preserved

by Tom Champion

After 16 years of hoping, waiting and researching, the old 1908-1910 historical movie of the Terre Haute Fire and Police departments will now be restored.

It all came to light when the No. 5 fire crew was refurbishing the old fire chief's office at old fire headquarters at 28 S. 9th St. in 1967.

Firemen Tom Champion and Frank Killion were removing the shelving out of the office of chief Donald Harris when they found a black box. We were about to throw it in the pile of junk.

The metal box wasn't black at all, but yellow after it was cleaned. The word Paramount was on the outside. It was like Christmas all over again.

When we opened the lid, there they were, the two 10 inch reels of 35mm film that was forgotten all these years.

The firemen had the film produced first in 1908 by the Edward Shields opera company for the Terre Haute Firemen's Pension Fund Benefit to obtain funds to run the pension. The film was shown at the Grand opera house at 7th and

Continued from page 1

Cherry, on February 12-13, 1908.

It seems the whole town turned out to see the filming which was held on South 8th street from Ohio and Walnut streets.

It all started back in 1894 by the Firemen's Relief Association to care for the widows, orphans and injured, who had no protection in those days.

When the movie film was first shown, there was high-class va-

deville acts and niagata falls, in gorgeous colored reproduction slides.

Firemen Pension Fund annual report from 1913 shows that from the fireman's benefit picture show drew \$1,231.80. The pension board has been one of the longest boards in operation in the history of the city.

In the 1930s when times were hard, and the city was hard pressed for funds to operate with, cities across the state asked the pension boards to turn over all their assets to the cities. In turn the state legislators made the Fireman's Pension Fund law, acts of 1937.

The pension laws have had many amendments and changes. There has been a never ending battle for the firemen to keep the pension. If there was no protection for the hazardous job, we would not be able to keep good qualified men.

The film will be taken to Washington D.C. to

the American Film Institute to be restored and preserved for posterity. One copy will be placed in the Library of Congress for research only, one will be placed in the Indiana State Library, and our copy for the fire-police museum will be available to the public.

I have researched the film frame by frame and have been able to identify a great deal of the firemen and what is taking place.

When we receive the film back, we will add sound and a storyline to it. The following people will help with this endeavor: Film technician Robert Johnson; Narrator Gerald Monday; researcher Tom Champion; John William Blunk, music.

This project is sponsored by the board of directors of Historical Fire Station No. 9: Tom Champion, Chairman; William Heckelsberg, treasurer; George Fal-lowfield, Paul Dowell, E. Nick Peters.



Former fire chief Don Harris, left, and Tom Champion hold up the reel of film from a 1908 film on the Terre Haute Fire Department. Copies of the film will be made for the local police and firemen's museum.

DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File



Otter Creek Trustee Candice Shoaf, former Trustee Bob Durr, Fire Chief and former Advisory Board member

Bob Meyers, and Advisory Board member Don Howard inspected the new fire truck on Saturday.

Fire Truck Finally Arrives

Journal Fire Protection (T.H.)
1/25/63
by Judy Stedman Calvert

The new \$56,000 fire truck for Otter Creek Township Volunteer Fire Department has finally arrived. The truck, which was paid for with revenue sharing funds, has been on order for over a year.

At ceremonies at the North Terre Haute Firehouse on Saturday morning, former Trustee Bob Durr formally presented the keys to the truck to Fire Chief Bob Meyers.

The truck is fully equipped with standard fire fighting equipment and also has a foam attachment and a deluge gun capable of pumping 750 gallons of water a minute.

The truck is more than adequate for home fires," said Chief Meyers. "The additional equipment will enable us to

fight fires at businesses or industries in larger buildings much more efficiently."

Durr also reported that the truck has been completely rustproofed and the exterior and interior has been spray-coated so waxing is not necessary. Ziebart Appearance and Protection Service did this work at no cost to the township.

"We really appreciate their contributions," said Durr. "When we checked on the spray waxing, they said they would do the entire process for no charge. Naturally, we accepted their offer!"

The fire department took the truck on a practice run on Sunday morning and tried out the deluge gun. "It works great," reports Meyers.

Fayette Township Volunteers will dedicate new building

Macksville, Fayette 4-9-84

Community Affairs File

Fire Protection (ND)

On September 25, 1957, concerned citizens in the area around Sandford started the Fayette Township Volunteer Fire Department of Sandford, with 24 members.

The department started with a GMC truck with tank and a one bay fire house. A 1950 truck was bought from the Paris Fire Department to replace the GMC. In 1962, the department purchased a 1000-gallon Ford Pumper for around \$9000. With the purchase of this truck an addition of another bay and a meeting room, was needed.

The newest piece of equipment which was added in 1978 is a 1500-gallon Chevrolet Tanker with a stainless steel tank. This piece of equipment was built by the members of the department. With this tanker, Sandford Volunteer Fire Department has become a valuable asset to the community as it can supply much needed water to rural departments as well as its own.

The department is under contract with Fayette Township to provide fire protection. The township is divided into 3 fire districts. Sandford covers Precinct A, New Goshen Precincts B and C, and Shepardsville covers the remaining area.

Due to the high cost of fuel and upkeep of the old community building which was connected to the firehouse, the membership decided to raze the building.

In June of 1982, the firemen and some members of the community started tearing the building down. By fall the firemen had constructed a new bay, kitchen, and restrooms. Area farmers and neighbors hauled many tons of sand in to fill the large hole which was the basement area in the old building.

The next spring and summer was spent on construction of a large 48 ft by 60 ft room, with approximately 250 setting capacity. In the construction of this building the firemen used materials out of the

old building such as lumber, rest-room fixtures, kitchen fixtures and etc. to help defray the cost on the new building. The building was finally finished on March 10, 1984, with many long hours and the gratification of a job well done.

The Firemen and Auxiliary would like to thank the many people who have helped with donations of time and equipment in the construction of the building.

On April 14, 1984 from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. the Firemen and Auxiliary will hold a Spaghetti Supper and Open House. We would like the people of the community to come and see the new building. Bingo will also be played. Prices are \$3.50 for Adults and \$2.00 for children under 10 years of age. The proceeds from the supper will go to help defray the cost of the building.

The department, along with its auxiliary, has held a Fish Fry annually on the second Saturday in September since 1975. This year it will be on September 8, 1984. The proceeds from the Fish Frys are used to buy equipment for the department.

The intention of the Sandford Fire Department is to continue to provide the best possible fire protection for the community and to upgrade its services as need arises.

A BIG THANK YOU to our many friends in the community and surrounding areas. **THANKS.**

DO NOT CIRCULATE
REFERENCE

Wacksville Gazette 7-25-87

WTH volunteers had early struggle

Community Affairs File

Fire Protection (W.U.)

by Tammie Edington

Governor Robert D. Orr has proclaimed August 4-11 as "Fire-fighter Appreciation Week" in Indiana in association with the Muscular Dystrophy Association for their support of MDA.

The town of West Terre Haute is protected by a crew of volunteer firefighters, organized since 1951. Two of the charter members of the force remembered the early days for the Gazette.

Ernest VonKannon, 322 Riggy, is now 83 years old and unable to assist the present force, but living only a block from the station keeps VonKannon at his window watching the wagons roll out on a call.

VonKannon spent over 30 years on the force in addition to his work in the coal mines.

He recalls that there were about ten men on the original crew who worked for a few years under an unstructured system, assisting the town fire department.

The volunteers worked out of the station next to the Police Headquarters on West National Avenue until they moved to their present location at 319 W. National Ave.

VonKannon assisted in the renovation of the new building.

"I remember wading in mud up to my knees," said VonKannon.

"In the early days", he reported, "people did not recognize the importance of a volunteer fire department, but as time went on they did."

Equipment was scarce and he remembers those cold nights.

"I always thought of the lives of people," said VonKannon. "I joined because I felt there was protection for my family, if I couldn't be there."

Now when the whistle blows during the day or in the middle of the night, VonKannon is awake and at the window, wishing he could be there with them.

Kenny Williams, N. 7th St., West Terre Haute, was also a member of the charter force.

Williams has not been active on the force for about four years, he said, letting the younger men take his place.

But Williams remembers the struggle for equipment and funds.

Jim Harris, a Chevrolet dealer in Greencastle, donated the first truck to the volunteers and a tank was built on the back.

"It was the largest tank in Vigo County," said Williams, "carrying 2,000 gallons of water, while most only held 300-400 gallons."

During the mid-1960s when a part of the block between 6th and 7th Streets on Wabash Avenue was destroyed by fire, the West Terre Haute volunteers were called in to "man" the Terre Haute Fire Station on S. 9th St.

One of the early major fires in West Terre Haute, according to Williams, was the fire of the Methodist Church, 3rd Street and Miller Avenue, which he remembers happened in the early 1950s.

Equipment was slow in coming and many fundraisers were held.

Williams, who owned a barber shop on National Avenue for 30 years, is now employed by I.S.U.

"I would say the first ten years were difficult ones, but I gained many good friends and there were many fine workers," said Williams.

Next week we will take a look at the present West Terre Haute volunteer firefighters.

WTH Volunteers boast 49 members

Community Affairs File

[This is the second in a series of two articles about the Volunteer Fire Department in West Terre Haute, in observance of "Firefighter Appreciation Week," August 4-11, proclaimed by Governor Robert D. Orr.]

The West Terre Haute Volunteer Fire Department began with an organizational meeting in 1951 with a handful of men, but today that number has grown to 49 total members.

Fire Chief Gerald Rader, himself a veteran of 27 years on the force and 4 years in the head position, emphasizes the ongoing comprehensive training program, through which members of his crew participate.

Rader pointed out that there are three levels a firefighter can attain.

These include master, of which there are six, first class attained by one man, twenty-two certified as second class, ten rookies and ten associate members.

Equipment, scarce in the early days, is now in comparative abundance. The firefighters have three pumpers, one tanker/pumper combination and a rescue squad at their disposal.

The rescue squad service added in 1976, did mainly runs to assist in automobile accidents until 1980 when men on the force were trained as Emergency Medical Technicians and are now able to respond to various medical emergencies. There are currently 13 EMTs and 18 First Responders.

There is also a man on the force trained in fire and arson investigation, one fire inspector and 10 certified vehicle extrication specialists.

The insurance rate, said Rader, has been dropped in the town of West Terre Haute from a Class 9 to a Class 7, over the past four years. This rating shows a reduction in the risk factor of death or injury resulting from fire or medical emergencies.

The funding of the volunteer firefighters is dually supported by the township trustee and the town of West Terre Haute. Great emphasis is placed on donations and fund-raisers.

Rader also indicated that the cost of firefighting equipment has increased greatly. A fire truck purchased in 1975 by them was \$27,685. The same model of truck presently costs between \$60 - 65,000.

Rader also said that the volunteers, since April 1980, are solely responsible for 65% of the township. Prior to that time the town employees were also a part of the force.

The present firehouse, 319 W. National Avenue, was purchased in 1968, remodeled by the members and occupied in 1969. Previously, part of the West Terre Haute Police Department building was utilized as a station.

In the past three years the trucks have rolled out of the station at the sound of the whistle, in excess of 400 runs.

Rader said he has a good group of people, who have already made 271 runs so far this year, with over 50% being in an emergency medical situation.

WTH Volunteer Fire Dept. members include:

Joan Baker
Thomas Barnhart (Asst. Chief)
John Belskamper
James Bilsland
David Boyd
Richard Boyles
Verdeana Boyles
Steve Carpenter (Pres.)
Clark Cottom
Catherine Cottrell
Jerry Cremoni, Jr. (V-Pres.)
Delores Crosby
David Debney
Richard Dickerson
Kenneth Eads
Peyton Eldredge
Carol Ferran
Tim Green (Sec.)

Charles Harris (Asst. Chief)
Harold Harris
Gordon Herrington
Jerry Keith
Ernestine Lane
Rick Lane
Betty Martin
Huber Martin (Treas.)
Raymond Martin
James Mattox (Capt.)
Randy Monnett
Dennis Moont
Billie McDonald (Lt.)
William Pennell
Phillip Price
Gerald Rader (Chief)
Jerry Reid
Roy Rogers
Danny Schoffstall
David Smith (Capt.)
Gary Smith
Eddie Stark
James Stephens
Charles Stranahan
Jerry VanGilder
Lyle VanLannen
Ernest VonKannon
Kenneth Williams
Henry Wood
Harold Braurer
Norval Walton

DO NOT CIRCULATE
REFERENCE